

# CLASSICS *Illustrated*

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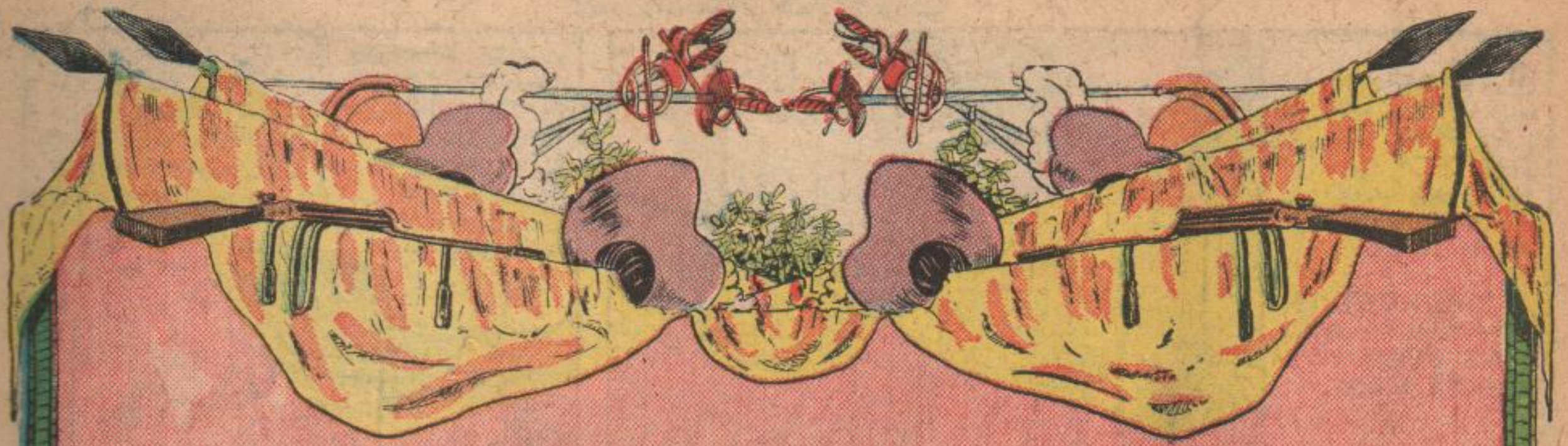
## THE THREE MUSKETEERS

Alexandre Dumas

No. 1 15¢







# The Three Musketeers

BY  
*Alexandre  
Dumas*

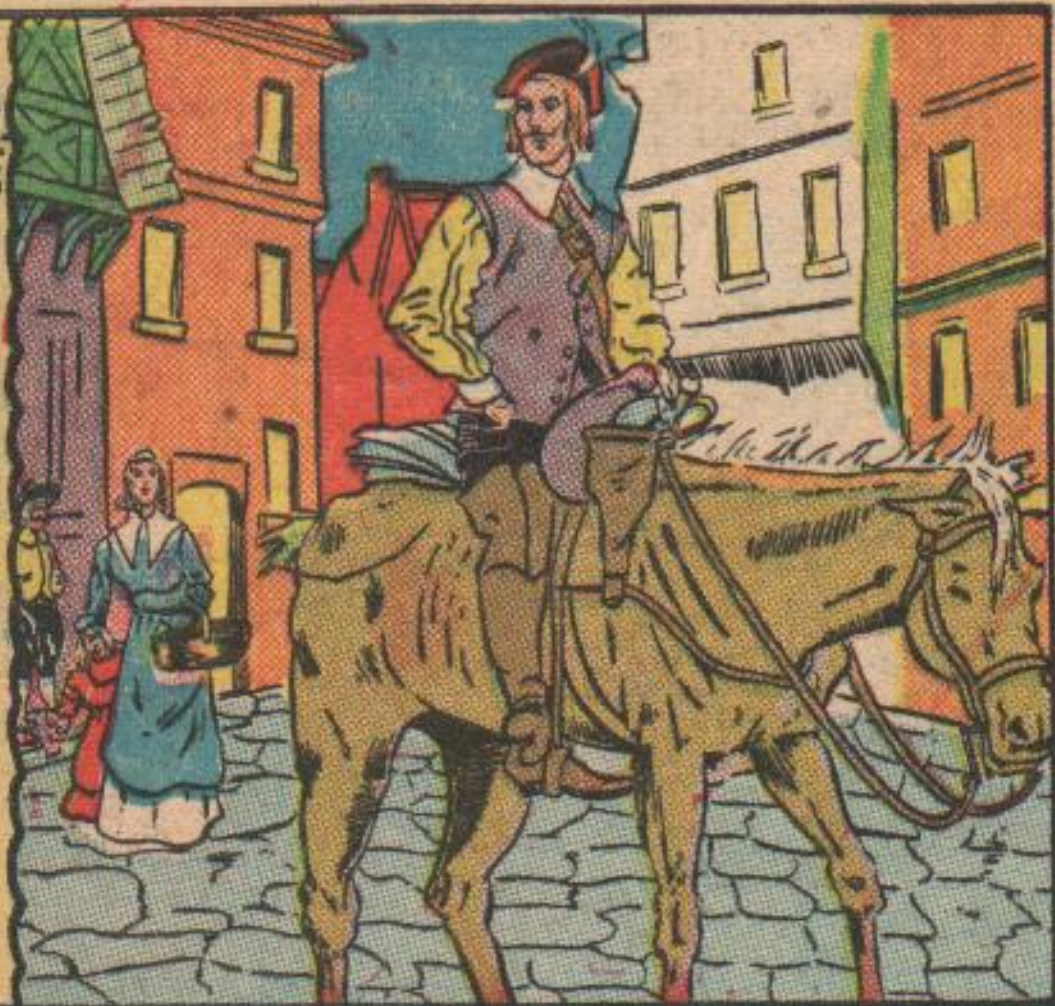
DRAWN  
by  
MALCOLM  
KILDALE





**D**'ARTAGNAN, ON HIS WRETCHED YELLOW PONY, ENTERS THE CITY OF MEUNG AND HALTS BEFORE A HOTEL.

THE HOST IS STANDING AT THE DOOR WITH THREE MEN.



WHAT AN ORIGINAL COLOR! QUITE COMMON IN BOTANY, BUT UNTIL NOW VERY RARE AMONG HORSES — HA-HA!

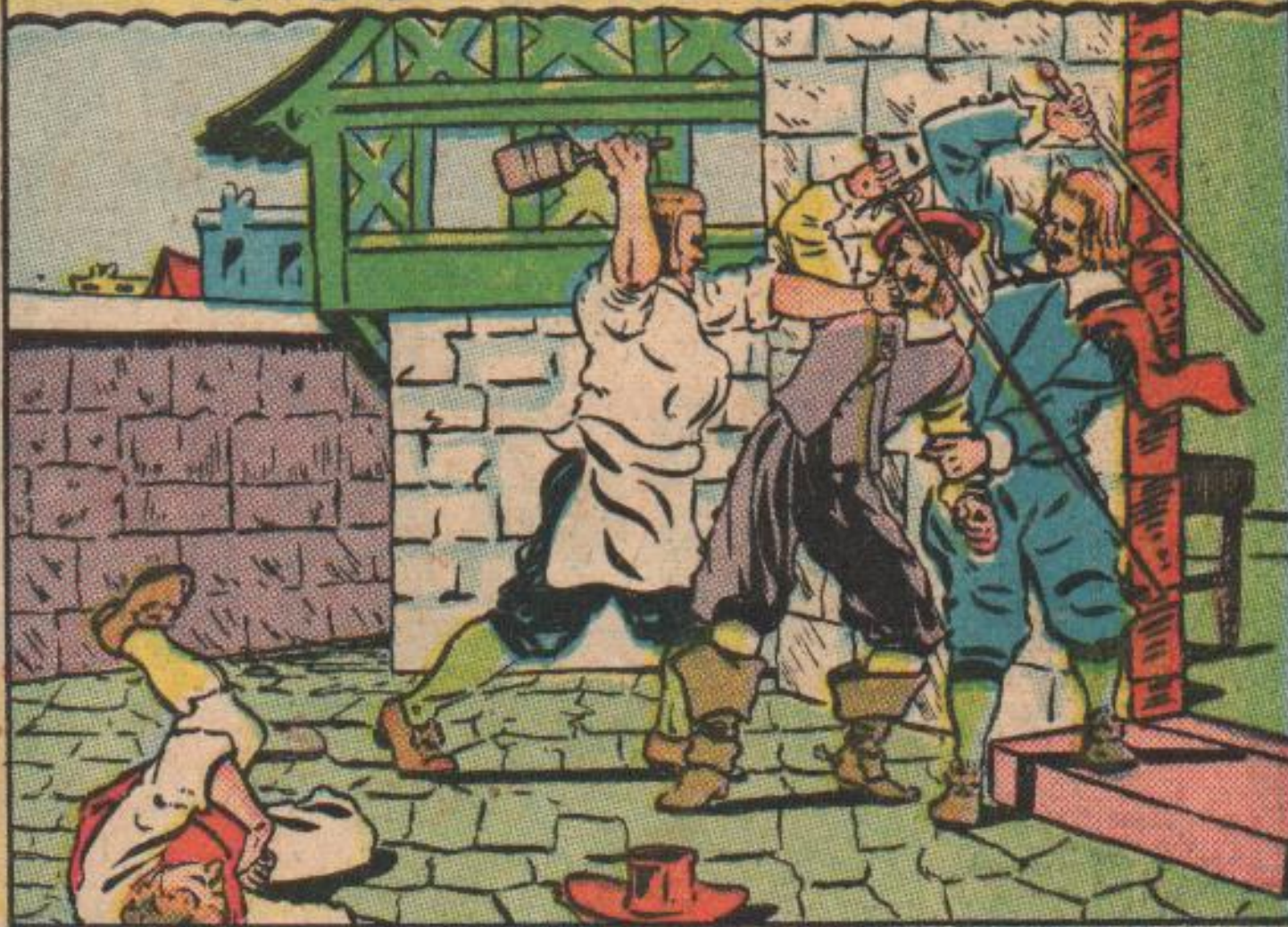
I DO NOT LIKE THE LAUGHTER OF THAT MAN! ZOUNDS! HE IS RIDICULING MY HORSE!



YOU, SIR, MAY LAUGH AT MY HORSE BUT NOT AT ITS MASTER. **ON GUARD,** MASTER JOKER, LEST I RUN YOU THROUGH!

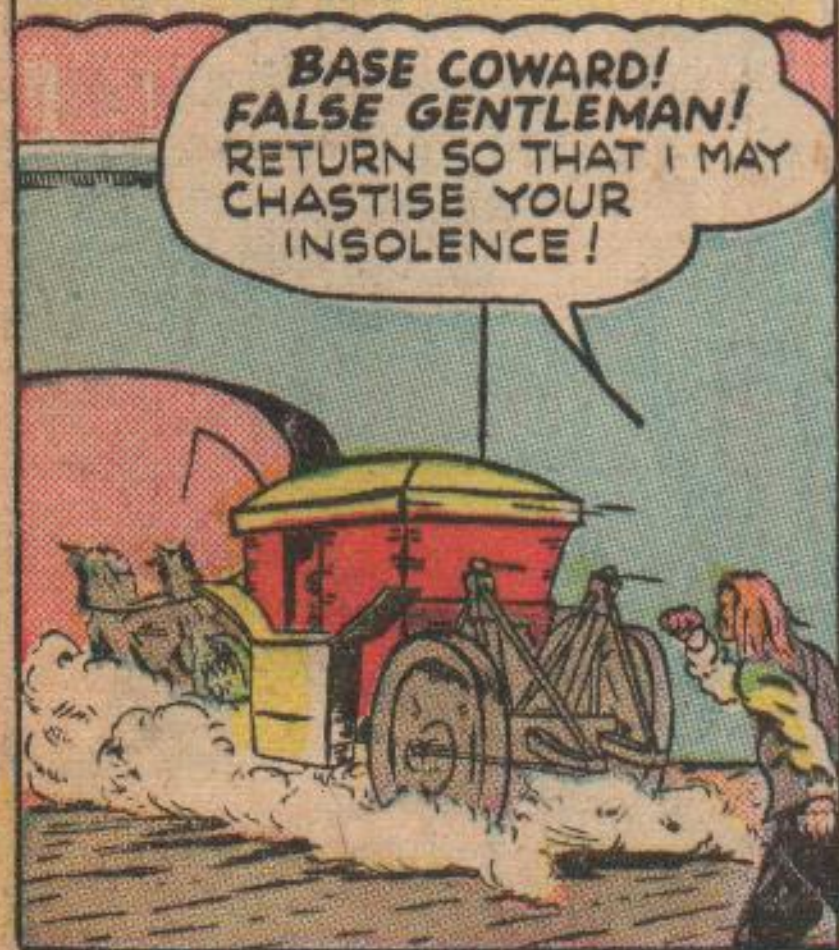


**A**TTACKED BY THE HOST AND THE STRANGER'S FRIENDS, D'ARTAGNAN IS BEATEN SENSELESS WHILE HIS OPPONENT WITHDRAWS.



**R**EGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS, D'ARTAGNAN SEES HIS NEMESIS FLEEING IN A COACH WITH A BEAUTIFUL LADY.

**BASE COWARD! FALSE GENTLEMAN! RETURN SO THAT I MAY CHASTISE YOUR INSOLENCE!**



MY LETTER, YOU THIEVING RUFFIAN! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY LETTER?

MERCY, MONSIEUR, I DO NOT HAVE IT. IT MUST HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY YOUR ADVERSARY WHILE YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS.

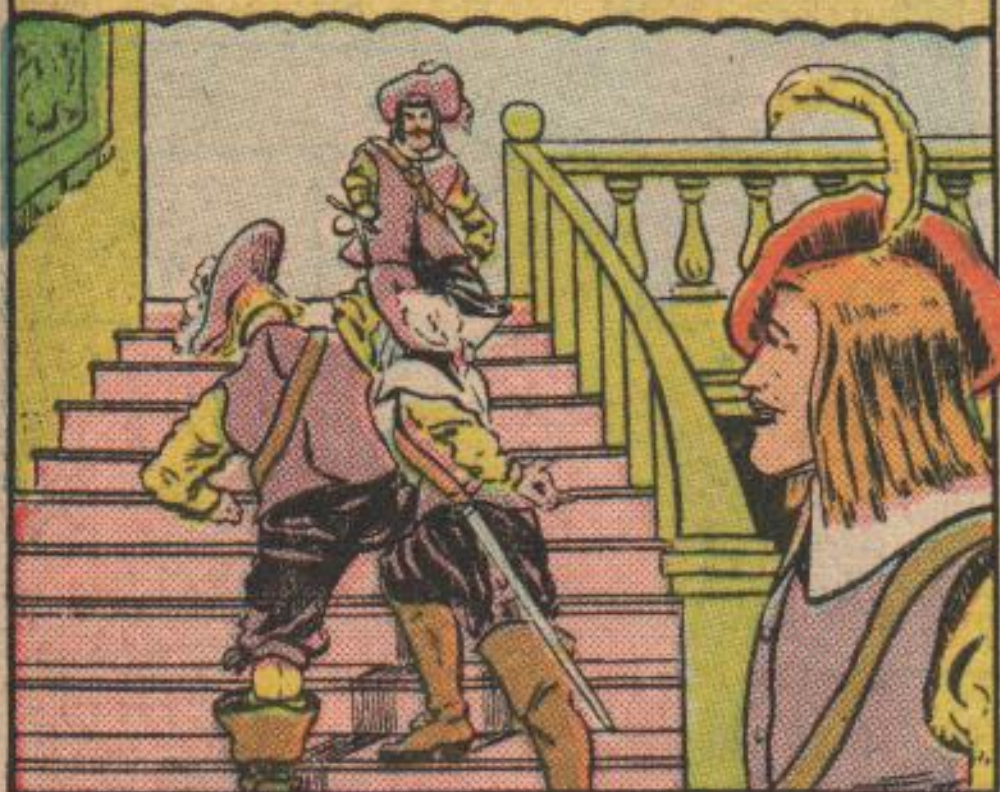


**A**FTER SELLING HIS HORSE, D'ARTAGNAN ARRIVES AT THE GATES OF PARIS ON FOOT.





D'ARTAGNAN PRESENTS HIMSELF BEFORE THE HOTEL OF M. DE TREVILLE, WHICH IS FILLED WITH DUELING, ROISTERING MUSKETEERS, AND REQUESTS AN INTERVIEW WITH THEIR CAPTAIN...



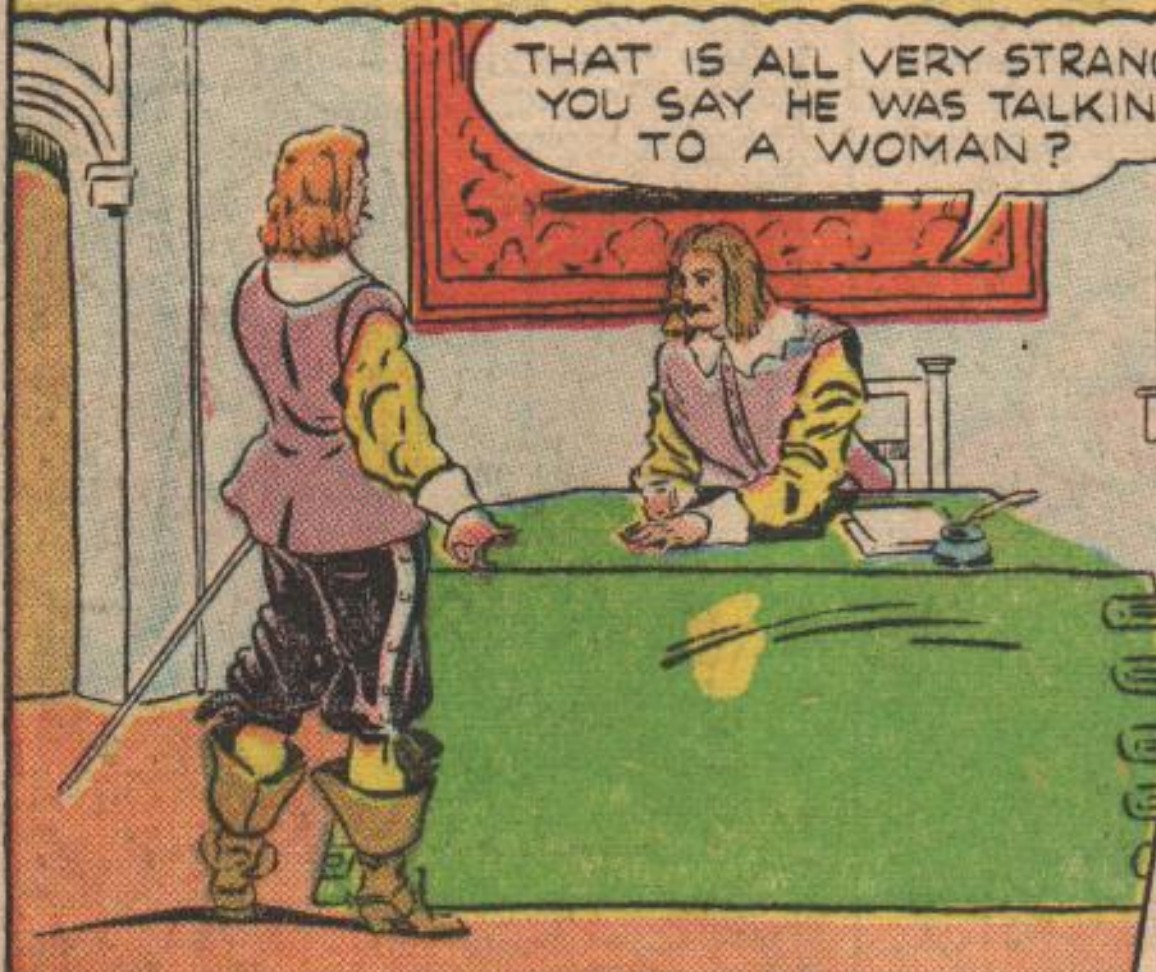
MONSIEUR DE TREVILLE AWAITS M. D'ARTAGNAN.



MONSIEUR, IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE FRIENDSHIP YOU HAVE FOR MY FATHER, I HUMBLY REQUEST FROM YOU THE UNIFORM OF A MUSKETEER.



D'ARTAGNAN RELATES HOW HE LOST HIS LETTER OF INTRODUCTION, AND DESCRIBES IN DETAIL HIS ADVENTURES IN THE CITY OF MEUNG.



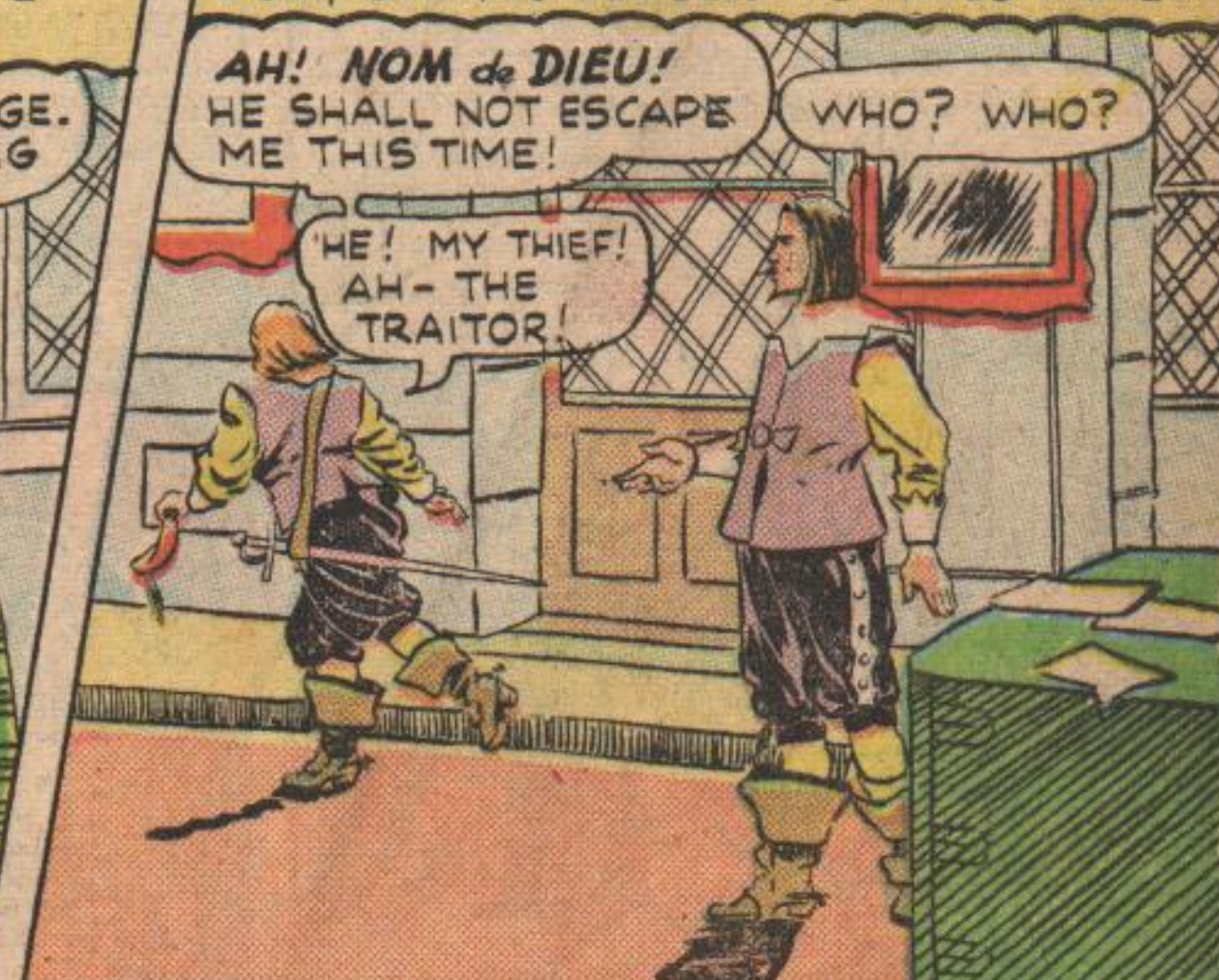
THAT IS ALL VERY STRANGE. YOU SAY HE WAS TALKING TO A WOMAN?

GLANCING THROUGH THE WINDOW, D'ARTAGNAN SEES HIS HATED RIVAL.

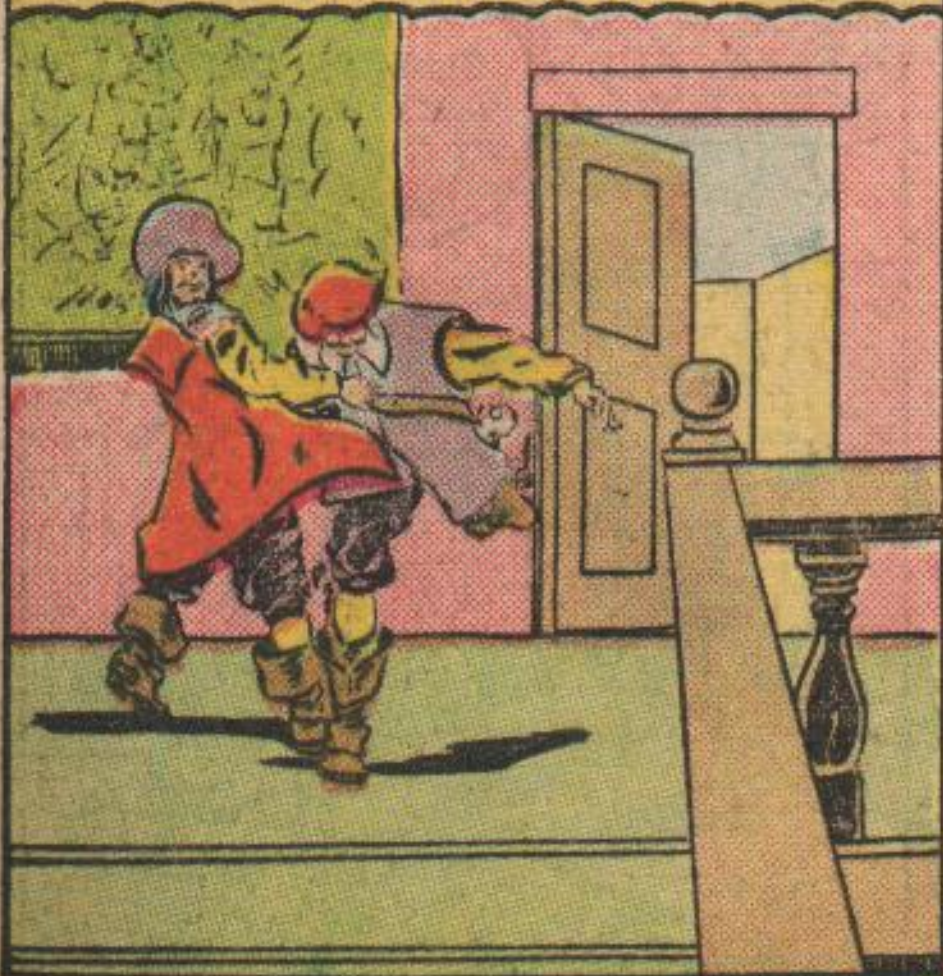
AH! *NOM de DIEU!* HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE ME THIS TIME!

WHO? WHO?

HE! MY THIEF! AH - THE TRAITOR!



IN HIS HASTE, D'ARTAGNAN RUNS HEADLONG INTO ATHOS, ONE OF THE MUSKETEERS.



EXCUSE ME FOR RUNNING AGAINST YOU, BUT I AM IN A HURRY.

I CAN PARDON YOUR HASTE, SIR, BUT NOT YOUR MANNERS.



MORBLEU, SIR, IF I WERE NOT IN A HURRY, I COULD GIVE YOU A LESSON IN MANNERS!

A LESSON IN MANNERS? SHALL WE SAY AT NOON? AT NOON NEAR THE CARMES DESCHAUX? THERE!





RUNNING THROUGH THE STREET, D'ARTAGNAN BUMPS INTO PORTHOS AND BECOMES EN-TANGLED IN HIS CLOAK.





D'ARTAGNAN ENTERS THE GARDEN AT THE CARMES DESCHAUX AND FINDS ATHOS WAITING --



MONSIEUR, I HAVE ENGAGED TWO OF MY FRIENDS AS SECONDS. THEY WILL BE HERE SHORTLY.



ON MY PART, I HAVE NO SECONDS, HAVING ONLY YESTERDAY ARRIVED IN PARIS.

AH! THERE THEY ARE NOW!

WHAT? ARE YOUR SECONDS PORTHOS AND ARAMIS?



PERMIT ME TO INTRODUCE THE GENTLEMAN WITH WHOM I AM GOING TO FIGHT.

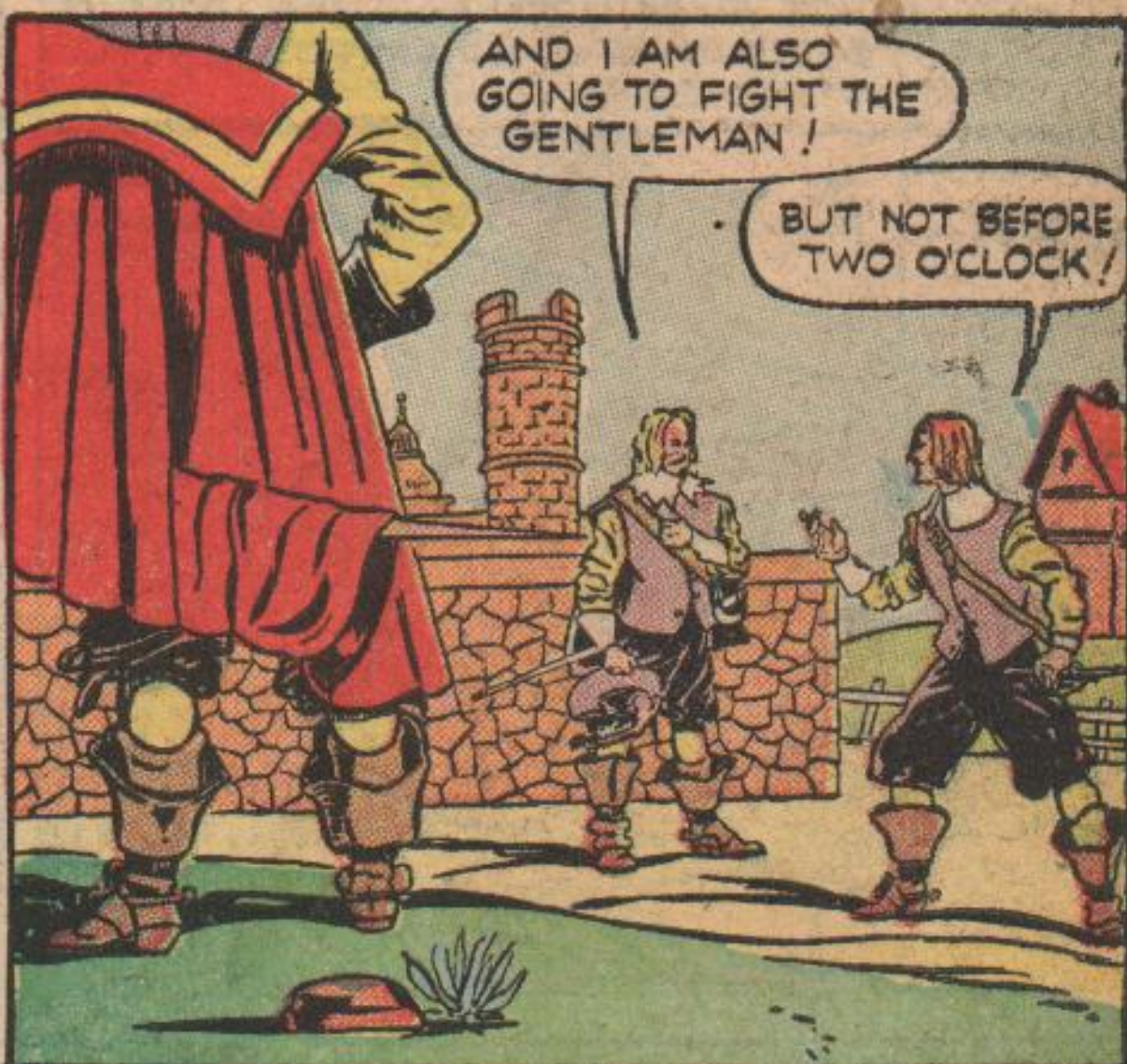
WHY, HE IS THE ONE THAT I AM GOING TO FIGHT!

BUT NOT BEFORE ONE O'CLOCK!

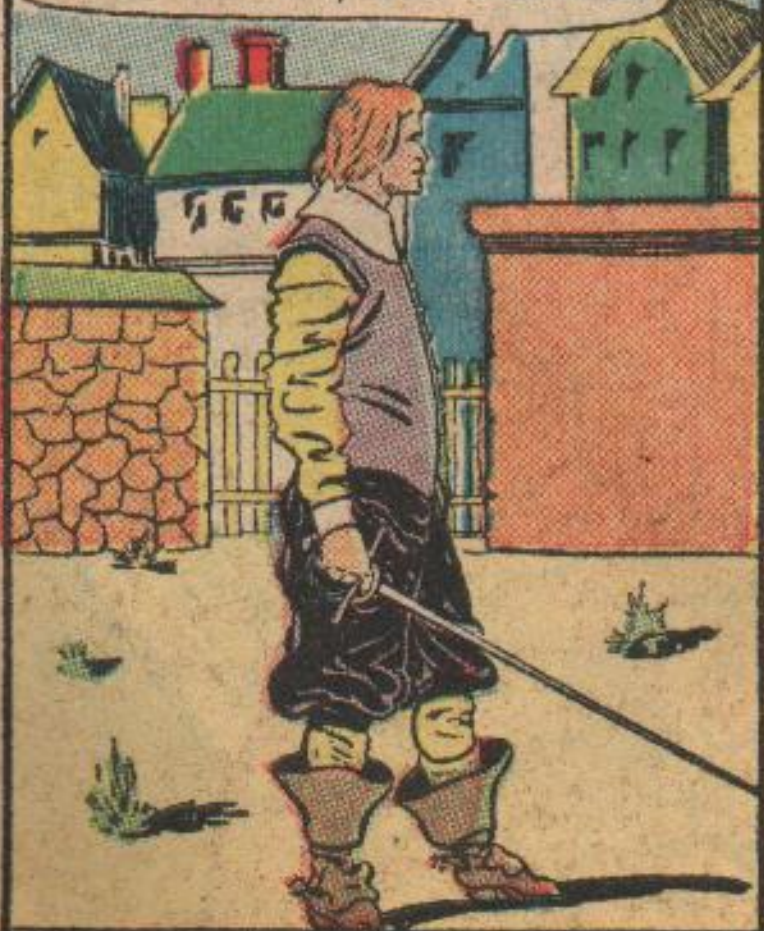


AND I AM ALSO GOING TO FIGHT THE GENTLEMAN!

BUT NOT BEFORE TWO O'CLOCK!



AND NOW, MONSIEUR, IF YOU ARE READY, ON GUARD!



THE CARDINAL'S GUARDS! THE CARDINAL'S GUARDS! SHEATHE SWORDS! GENTLEMEN! SHEATHE SWORDS!



HOLA! MUSKETEERS, FIGHTING ARE YOU? YOU ARE UNDER ARREST. SHEATHE, PLEASE, AND FOLLOW US. WE WILL CHARGE IF YOU DISOBEY!







CLOSE IN, GENTLEMEN. THERE ARE FIVE OF THEM AND WE ARE BUT THREE. ON MY PART I SHALL NEVER SURRENDER!



GENTLEMEN! I DO NOT WEAR YOUR UNIFORM, BUT MY HEART IS THAT OF A MUSKETEER. ALLOW ME TO CORRECT YOUR WORDS. WE ARE NOT THREE, BUT FOUR!



DECIDEDLY, YOU ARE A GALLANT FELLOW! THEN IT IS DONE - ON GUARD, GENTLEMEN, WE ARE ABOUT TO HAVE THE HONOR OF CHARGING YOU!



THE NINE COMBATANTS RUSH UPON EACH OTHER. ATHOS FIXES UPON CAHUSAC. PORTHOS CHOOSES BICARAT AND ARAMIS TAKES ON TWO AT ONCE.



D'ARTAGNAN SPRINGS LIKE A FURIOUS TIGER TOWARD JUSSAC, THE LEADER, ATTACKING HIM ON ALL SIDES AT ONCE, AND YET PARRYING LIKE A MAN WHO HAS THE GREATEST RESPECT FOR HIS OWN EPIDERMIS



JUSSAC, FURIOUS AT BEING HELD IN CHECK BY HIM WHOM HE CONSIDERS A BOY, COMMITS A FAULT AND D'ARTAGNAN RUNS HIM THROUGH --



THEN, D'ARTAGNAN, LOOKING AROUND, SEES THAT PORTHOS IS HOLDING HIS OWN AND ARAMIS HAS KILLED ONE MAN. ATHOS, HOWEVER, WEAKENED BY AN OLD WOUND WHICH HAS OPENED, IS IN NEED OF HELP --



D'ARTAGNAN LEAPS TO THE SIDE OF CAHUSAC

TO ME, MONSIEUR! GUARD OR I WILL SLAY YOU!



GAHUSAC SOON FALLS WITH A SWORD-  
THRUST THROUGH THE THROAT.



ARAMIS,  
WITH A  
LIGHTNING-  
FAST LUNGE,  
DISABLES  
HIS  
REMAINING  
OPPONENT.

BICARAT, SURROUNDED BY FOUR MUSKET-  
EERS, IS FORCED TO SURRENDER.



ARM IN ARM, THE COMRADES TAKE THE  
ROAD TO THE HOTEL OF M. DE TREVILLE.  
THE HEART OF D'ARTAGNAN IS BURSTING  
WITH JOY.



THAT NIGHT THEY DINE IN SPLENDOR,  
WAITED ON BY FOUR LACKEYS.



THE FOUR COMPANIONS, THOUGH RICH IN  
SPIRIT, ARE POOR IN MONEY. EACH TAKES  
TURNS SUPPORTING THE ASSOCIATION  
WITH HIS OWN MEANS.



D'ARTAGNAN, THE POOREST, FANCIES HIMSELF A BURDEN TO THE SOCIETY, AND IS SCHEMING OF WAYS TO RAISE MONEY WHEN HIS LANDLORD ENTERS —

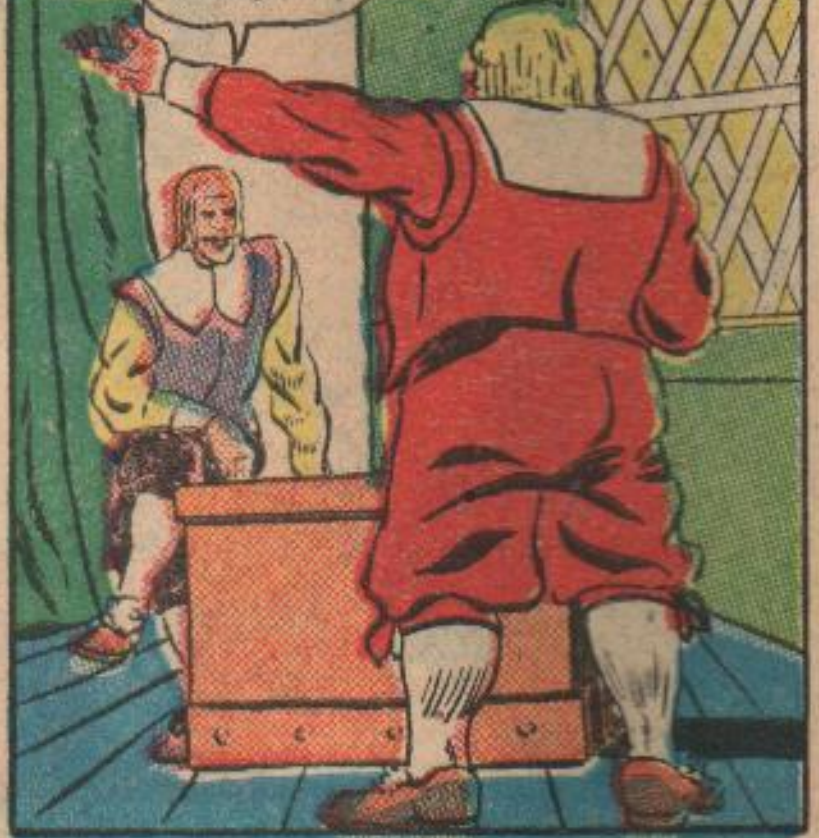


I AM BONACIEUX, YOUR LANDLORD. I HAVE HEARD OF YOU AS A VERY BRAVE MAN AND HAVE COME TO CONFIDE A SECRET.



I HAVE A WIFE WHO IS SEAMSTRESS TO THE QUEEN. YESTERDAY SHE WAS CARRIED OFF AS SHE WAS LEAVING THE PALACE.

CARRIED OFF? BY WHOM?



I DO NOT KNOW, BUT I SUSPECT A MAN OF LOFTY CARRIAGE, PIERCING EYES, AND A SCAR ON HIS TEMPLE

A SCAR ON HIS TEMPLE? WHY, THAT'S MY MAN OF MEUNG!



HE IS YOUR MAN, YOU SAY?

YES, BUT GO ON. WHY WAS YOUR WIFE CARRIED OFF?



IT HAS BEEN DONE ON ACCOUNT OF THE AFFAIRS OF A MUCH GREATER LADY THAN SHE IS.

AH! CAN IT BE ON ACCOUNT OF THE AFFAIRS OF MADAME DE-BOIS-TRACY?

HIGHER, MONSIEUR, HIGHER!



OF MADAME DE CHEVREUSE?

HIGHER; MUCH HIGHER.



OF THE —?

YES, MONSIEUR. **THE QUEEN!**



AND WITH WHOM?

WITH WHOM CAN IT BE, IF NOT THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM?



HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?

FROM MY WIFE, WHO IS IN THE QUEEN'S CONFIDENCE. THE DUKE HAS BEEN LURED TO PARIS BY A FORGED LETTER. THE QUEEN'S HONOR IS AT STAKE.







I MEAN TO OFFER YOU FIFTY PISTOLES IF MY WIFE IS RETURNED TO ME.

AN EXCELLENT SUGGESTION, MY DEAR BONACIEUX; I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.



AND NOW, GENTLEMEN - ALL FOR ONE, ONE FOR ALL - THAT IS OUR DEVICE, IS IT NOT?

ALL FOR ONE  
ONE FOR ALL

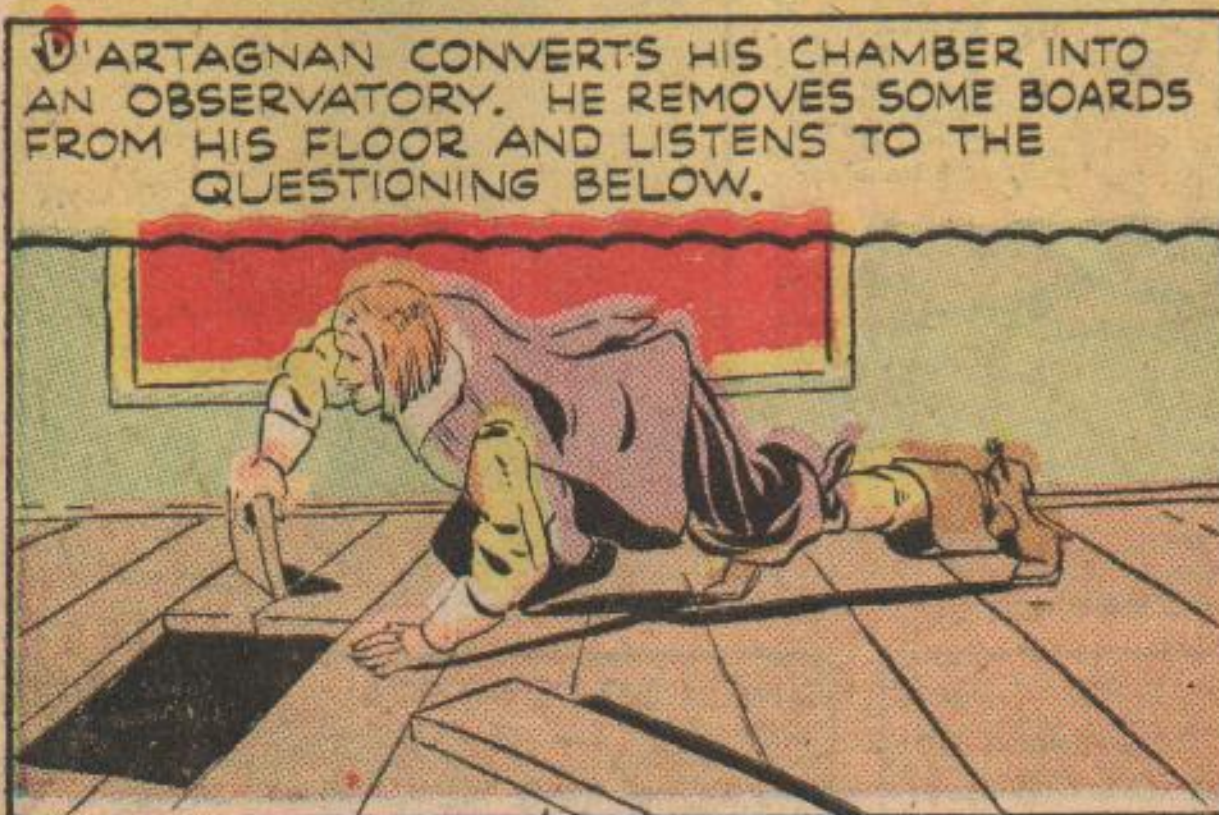


LATER, D'ARTAGNAN RELATES THE CIRCUMSTANCE OF THE VISIT TO HIS THREE COMPANIONS.

YOUR AFFAIR IS NOT A BAD ONE; IT ONLY REMAINS TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER FIFTY PISTOLES ARE WORTH THE RISK OF FOUR HEADS.



THE CARDINAL'S MEN MAKE A MOUSE-TRAP OF THE BONACIEUX APARTMENT. WHOEVER APPEARS THERE IS TAKEN AND QUESTIONED. BONACIEUX HIMSELF IS THE FIRST VICTIM.



D'ARTAGNAN CONVERTS HIS CHAMBER INTO AN OBSERVATORY. HE REMOVES SOME BOARDS FROM HIS FLOOR AND LISTENS TO THE QUESTIONING BELOW.

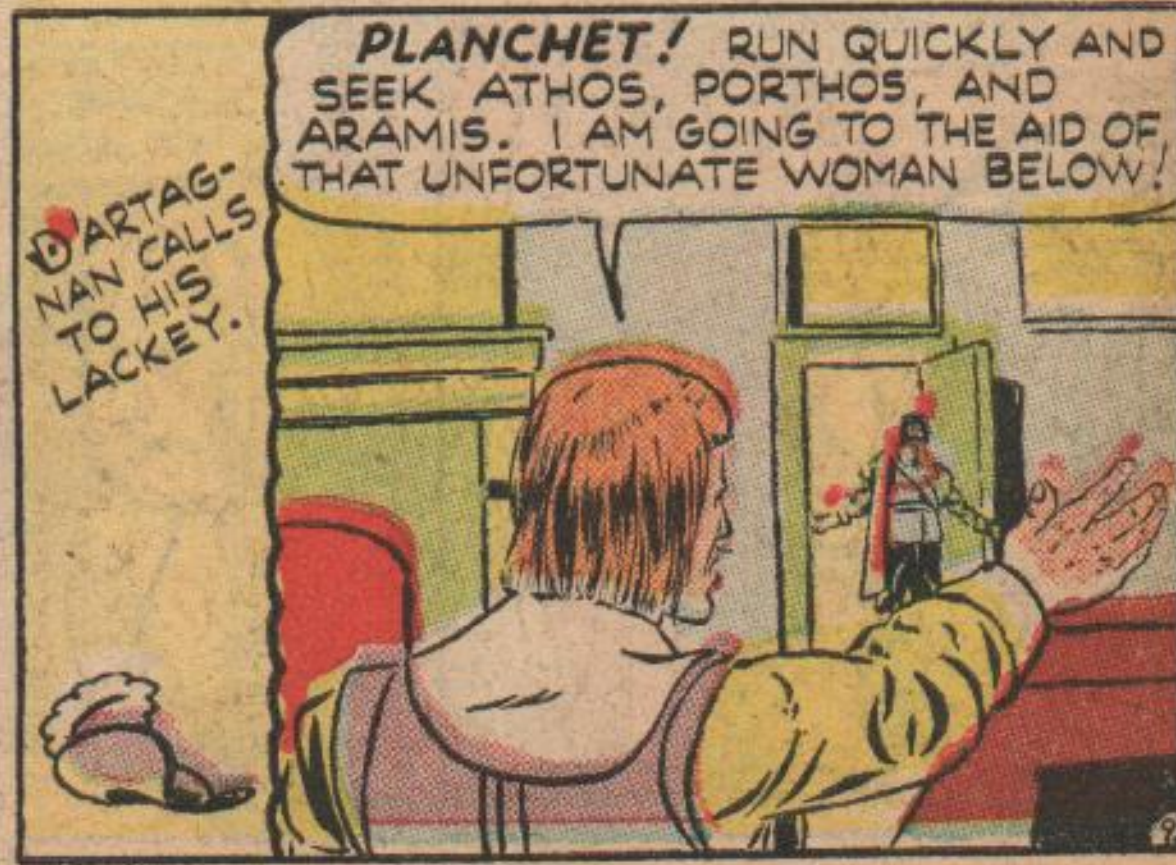


THAT NIGHT CRIES ARE HEARD, AND THEN MOANS.

D'ARTAGNAN LIES ON THE FLOOR BY THE HOLE AND LISTENS!



THE DEVIL! IT'S MADAME BONACIEUX - THEY ARE SEARCHING HER - SHE RESISTS - THEY USE FORCE - THE SCOUNDRELS!



PLANCHET! RUN QUICKLY AND SEEK ATHOS, PORTHOS, AND ARAMIS. I AM GOING TO THE AID OF THAT UNFORTUNATE WOMAN BELOW!

D'ARTAGNAN CALLS TO HIS LACKEY.







THINKING OF THE CHARMING MADAME BONACIEUX, WHO HAD TOUCHED HIS YOUNG HEART, D'ARTAGNAN PENSIVELY TAKES THE LONGEST WAY HOME.



PARIS IS DARK AND THE STREETS ARE DESERTED. D'ARTAGNAN SEES A SMALL, SHADOWY FIGURE, ENVELOPED IN A CLOAK, APPROACH A HOUSE AND TAP THRICE ON THE WINDOW!



D'ARTAGNAN CONCEALS HIMSELF IN THE DARKEST SIDE OF THE STREET, AND WATCHES.



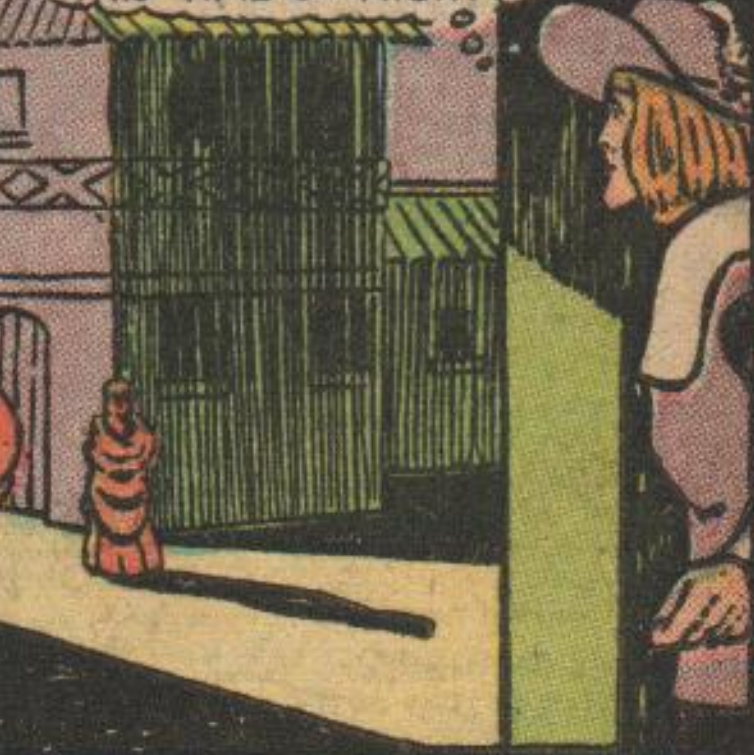
THE THREE TAPS ARE ANSWERED IMMEDIATELY BY THE OPENING IN THE CASEMENT. THE NOCTURNAL VISITOR EXCHANGES HANDKERCHIEFS WITH THE PERSON IN THE HOUSE.



THE SHUTTER IS CLOSED AND THE CLOAKED FIGURE PASSES WITHIN FOUR STEPS OF D'ARTAGNAN. IT IS MADAME BONACIEUX.



THIS AFFAIR IS BECOMING INVOLVED! WHAT BUSINESS CAN SHE HAVE WHICH IS SO SECRET THAT SHE WANDERS ABOUT THIS TIME OF NIGHT?



D'ARTAGNAN FOLLOWS MME. BONACIEUX. AT THE TOP OF THE RUE GUÉNEGAUD, SHE MEETS A MAN WHO CAN BE NONE OTHER THAN ARAMIS.

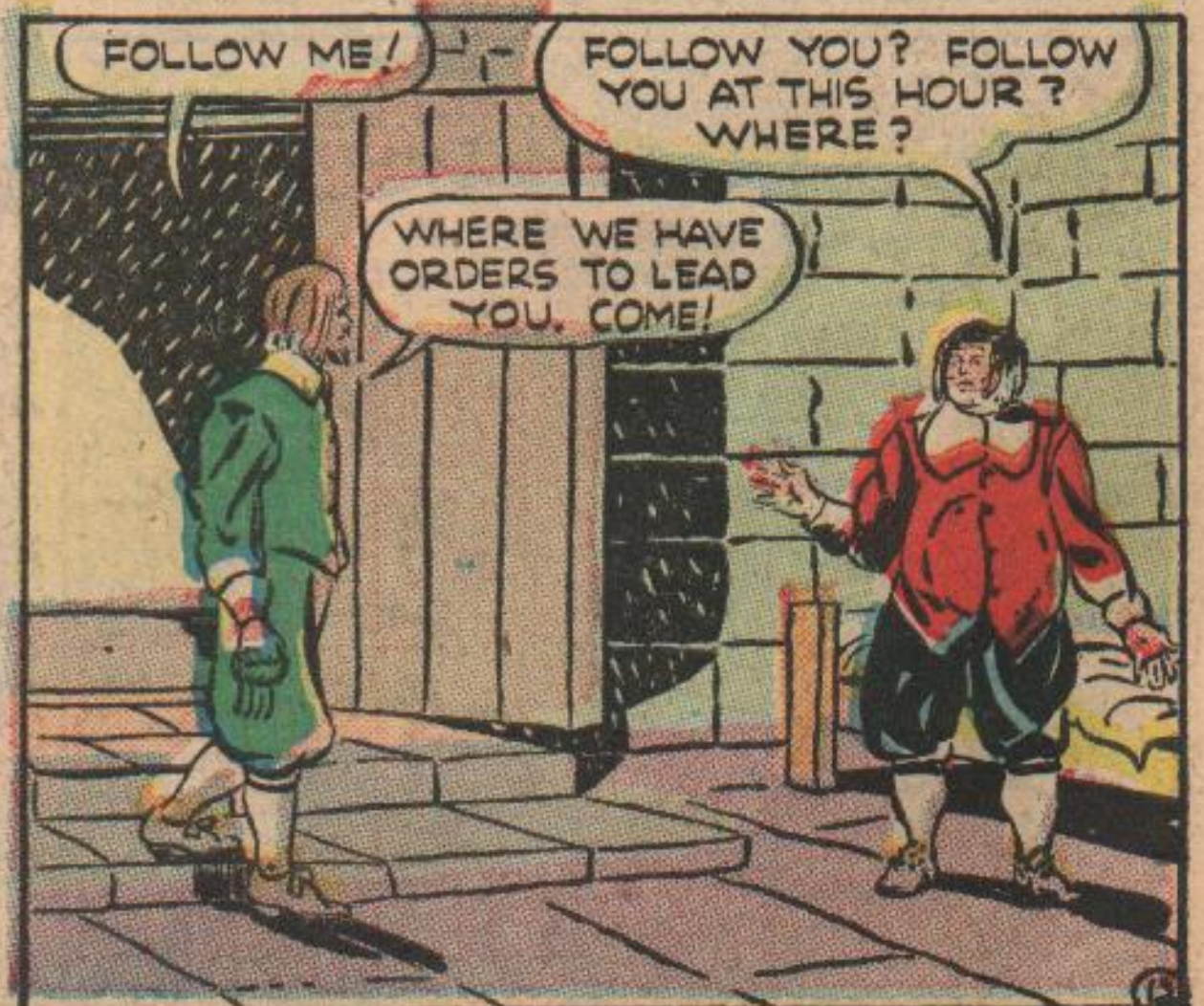
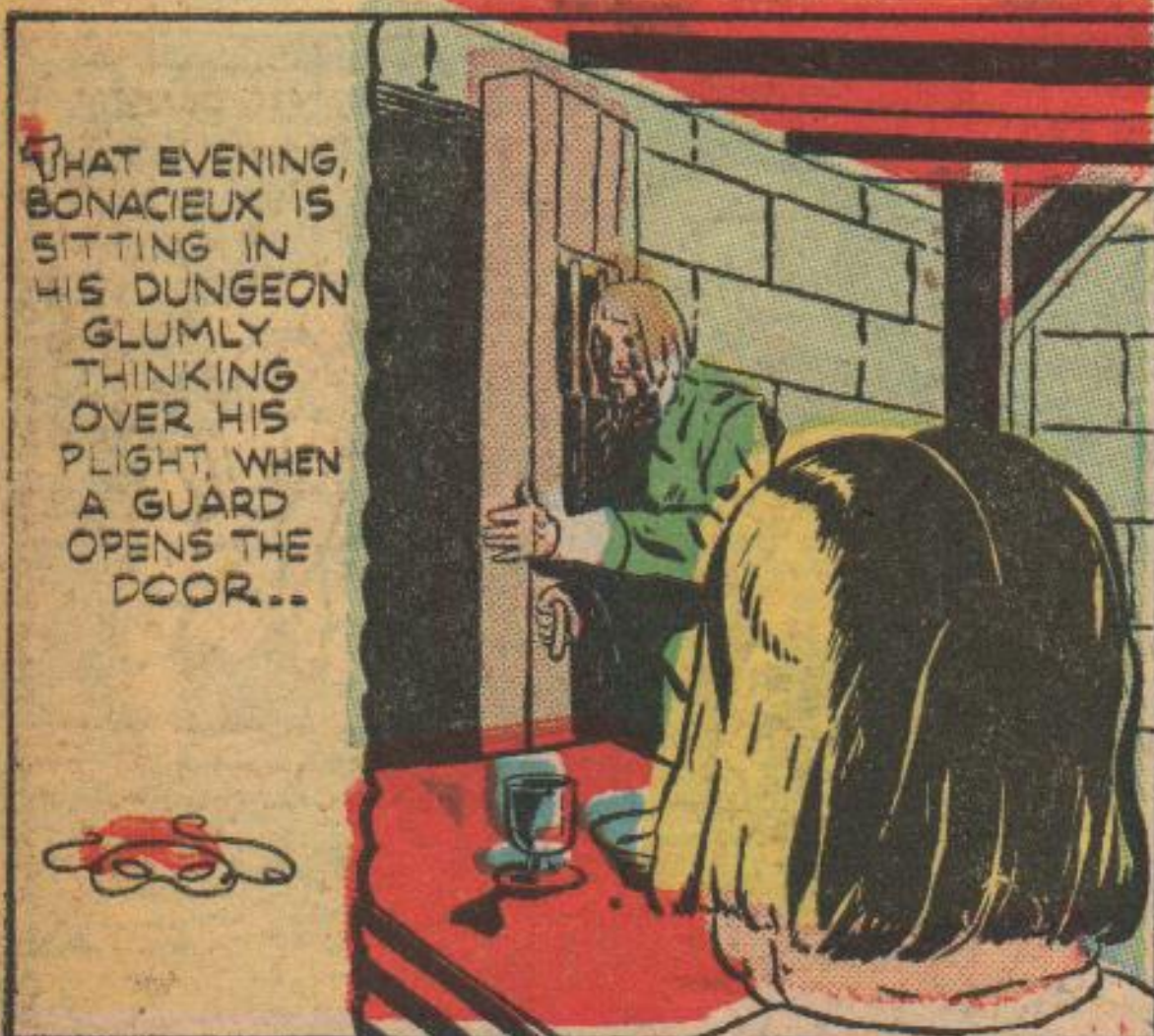
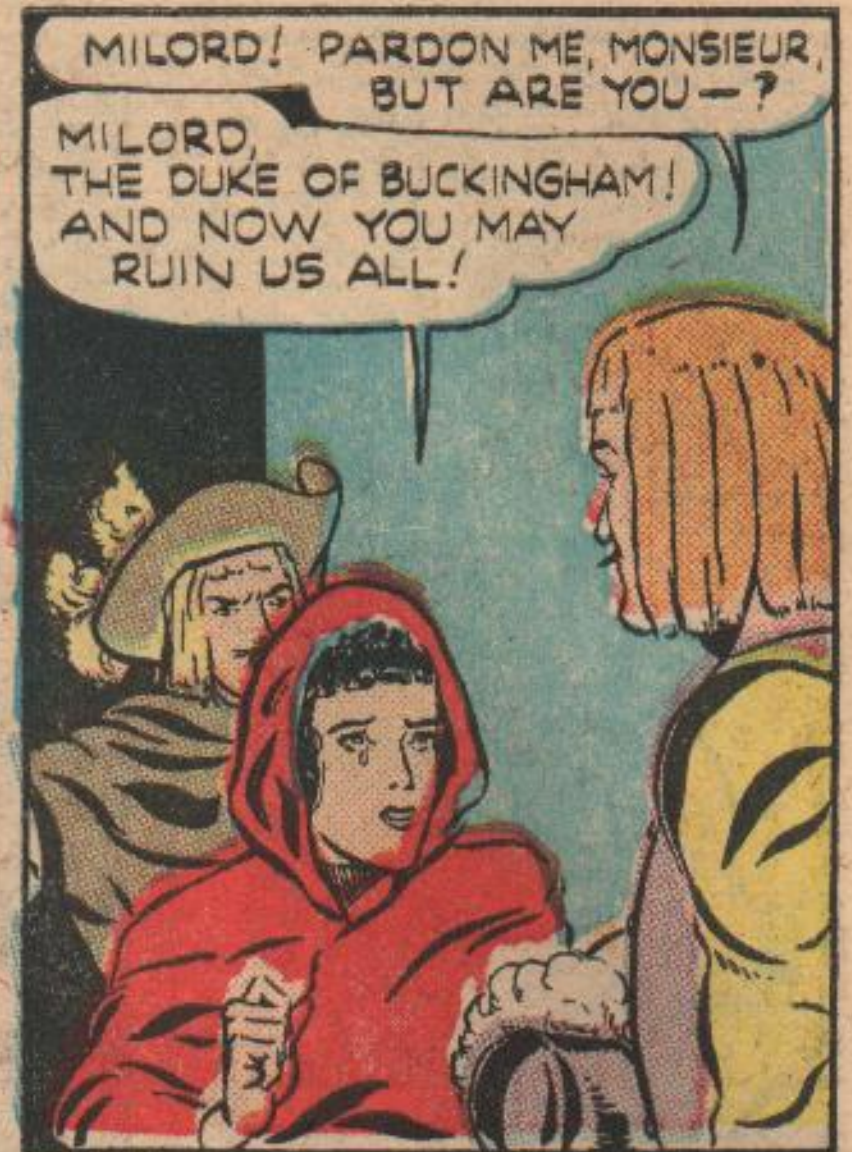


RESOLVED TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY, D'ARTAGNAN STANDS SQUARELY ATHWART THEIR PATH!





# CLASSICS Illustrated

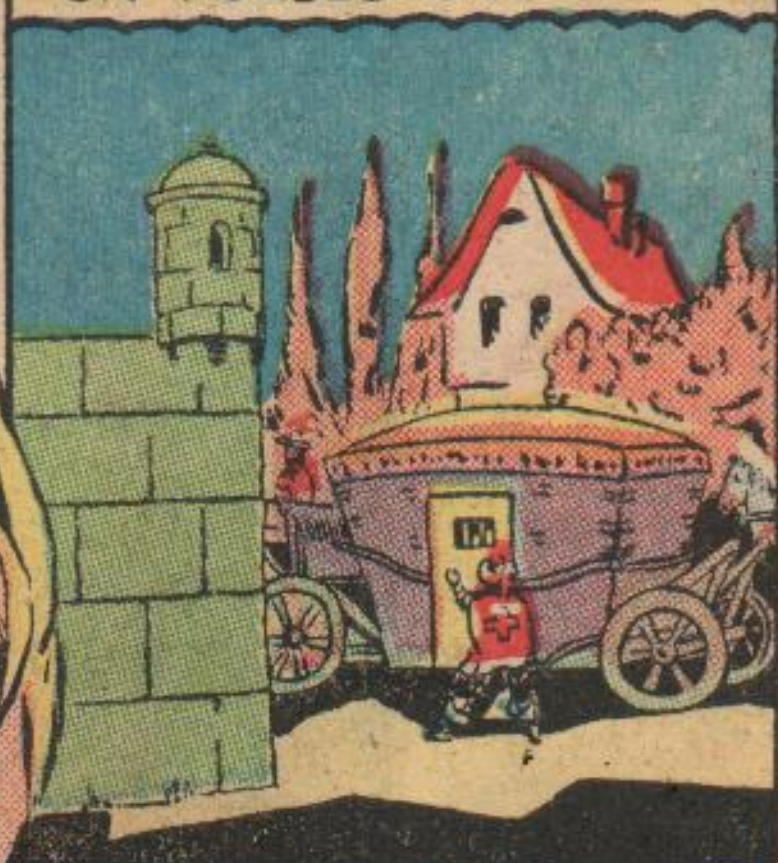




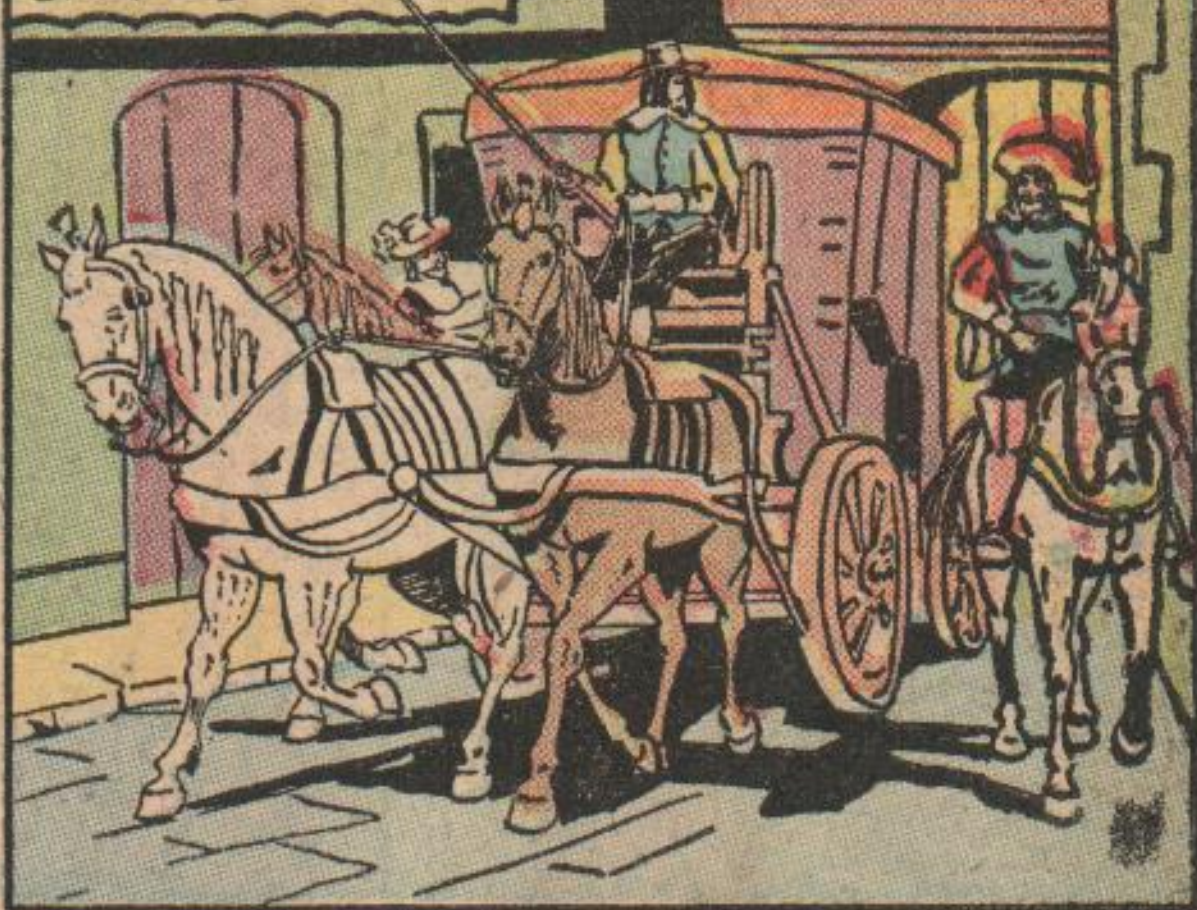
AH, MY GOD!  
NOW INDEED  
I AM LOST!



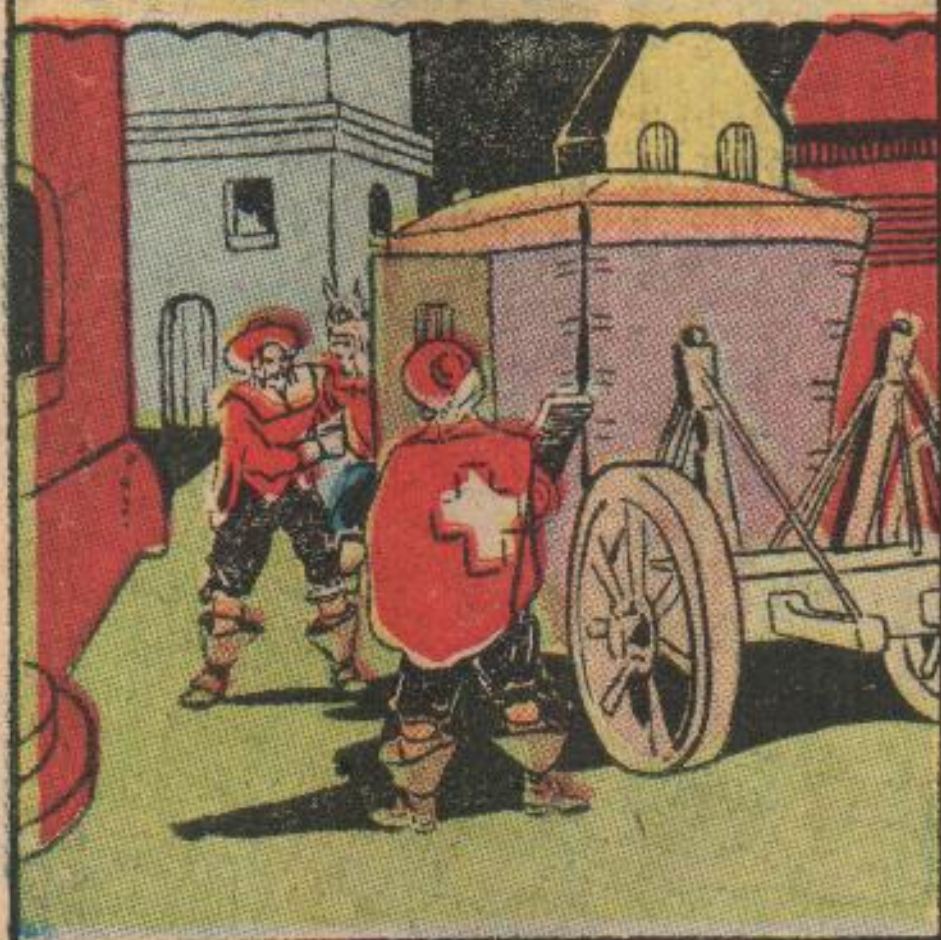
MASTER BONACIEUX IS PUT  
IN A CLOSED CARRIAGE  
SURROUNDED BY FOUR GUARDS  
ON HORSEBACK.



THE CARRIAGE IS PUT IN MOTION AS SLOWLY AS  
A FUNERAL CAR, AND GOES THROUGH THE STREETS  
OF PARIS.



FINALLY THE CARRIAGE STOPS BE-  
FORE A HOUSE. THE DOOR IS OPENED  
AND TWO GUARDS TAKE OUT THE  
TERRIFIED BONACIEUX.



THE GUARDS TAKE  
HIM UP A FLIGHT OF  
STAIRS AND DEPOSIT  
HIM IN THE ANTE-  
CHAMBER.

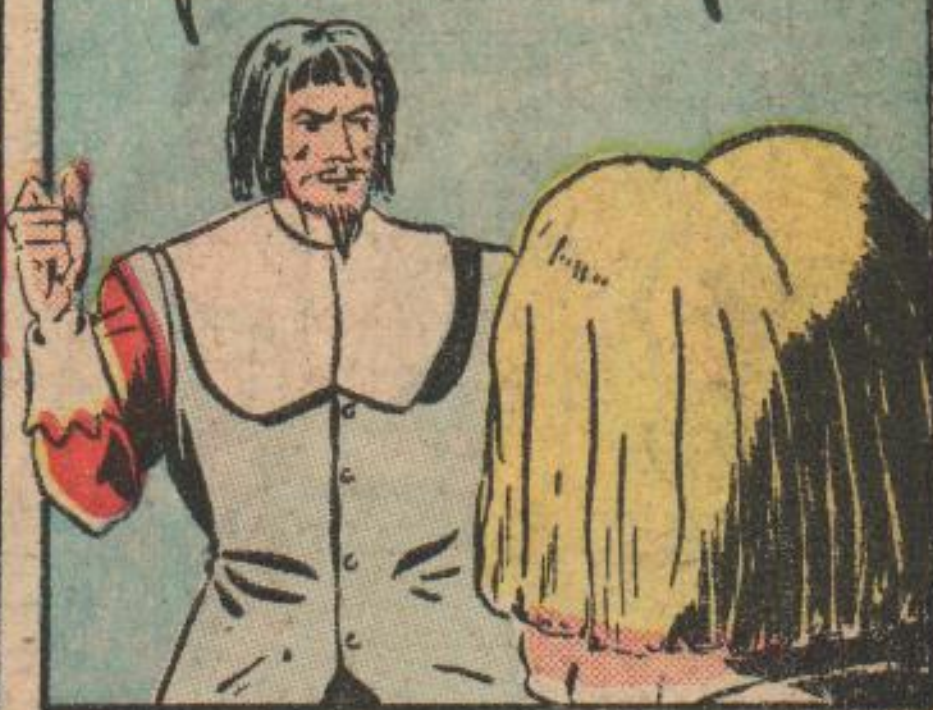


AN OFFICER OPENS THE DOOR.

IS YOUR NAME  
BONACIEUX?

YES, MONSIEUR;  
AT YOUR  
SERVICE.

COME IN.



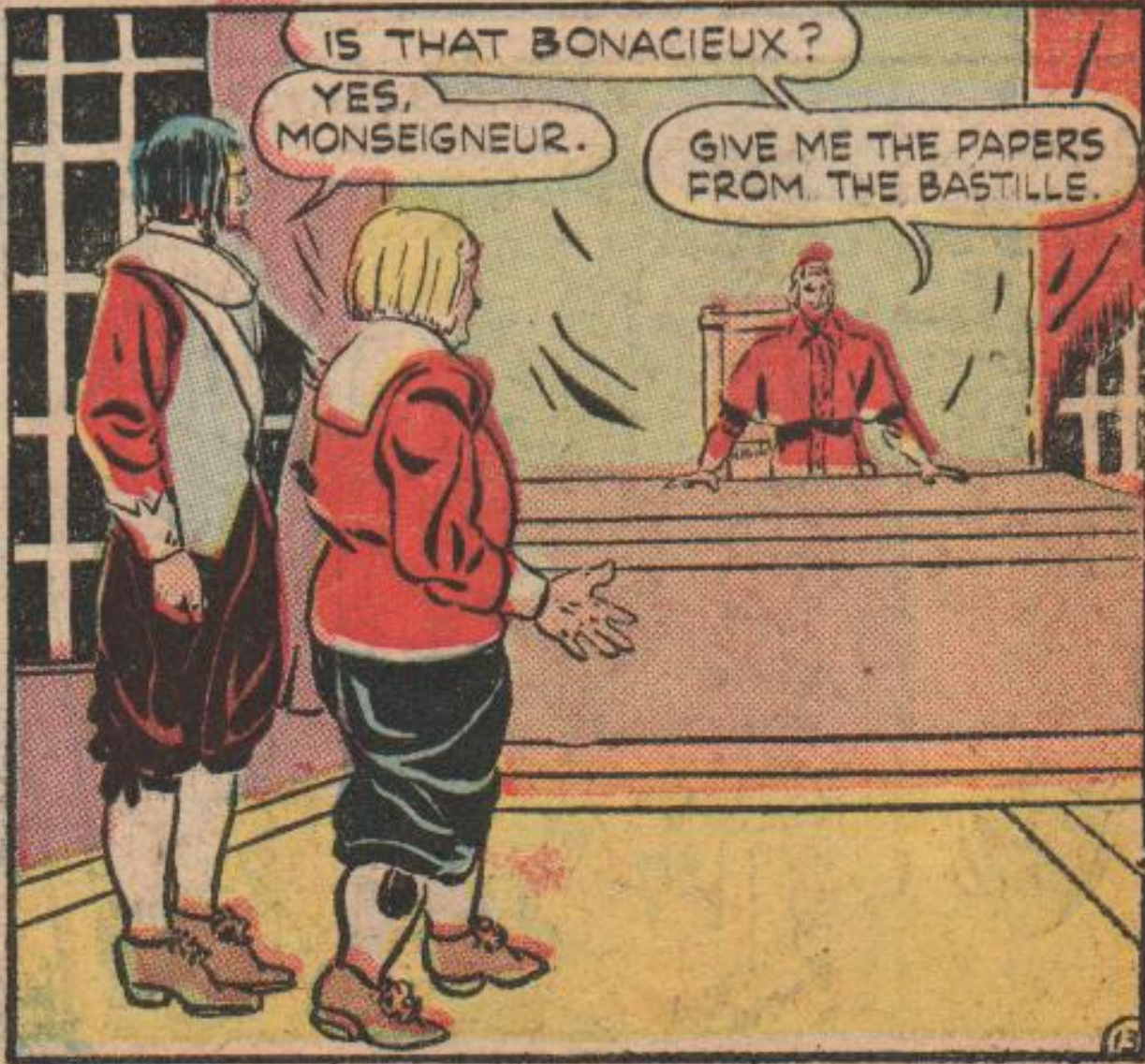
IN THE ROOM  
IS A MAN WHO,  
EXCEPT FOR A  
SWORD, HAS  
ALL THE AP-  
PEARANCE OF  
A SOLDIER.  
HE IS ARMAND  
JEAN DUPLESSIS,  
CARDINAL DE  
RICHELIEU,  
ONE OF THE MOST  
EXTRAORDINARY  
MEN WHO EVER  
EXISTED!



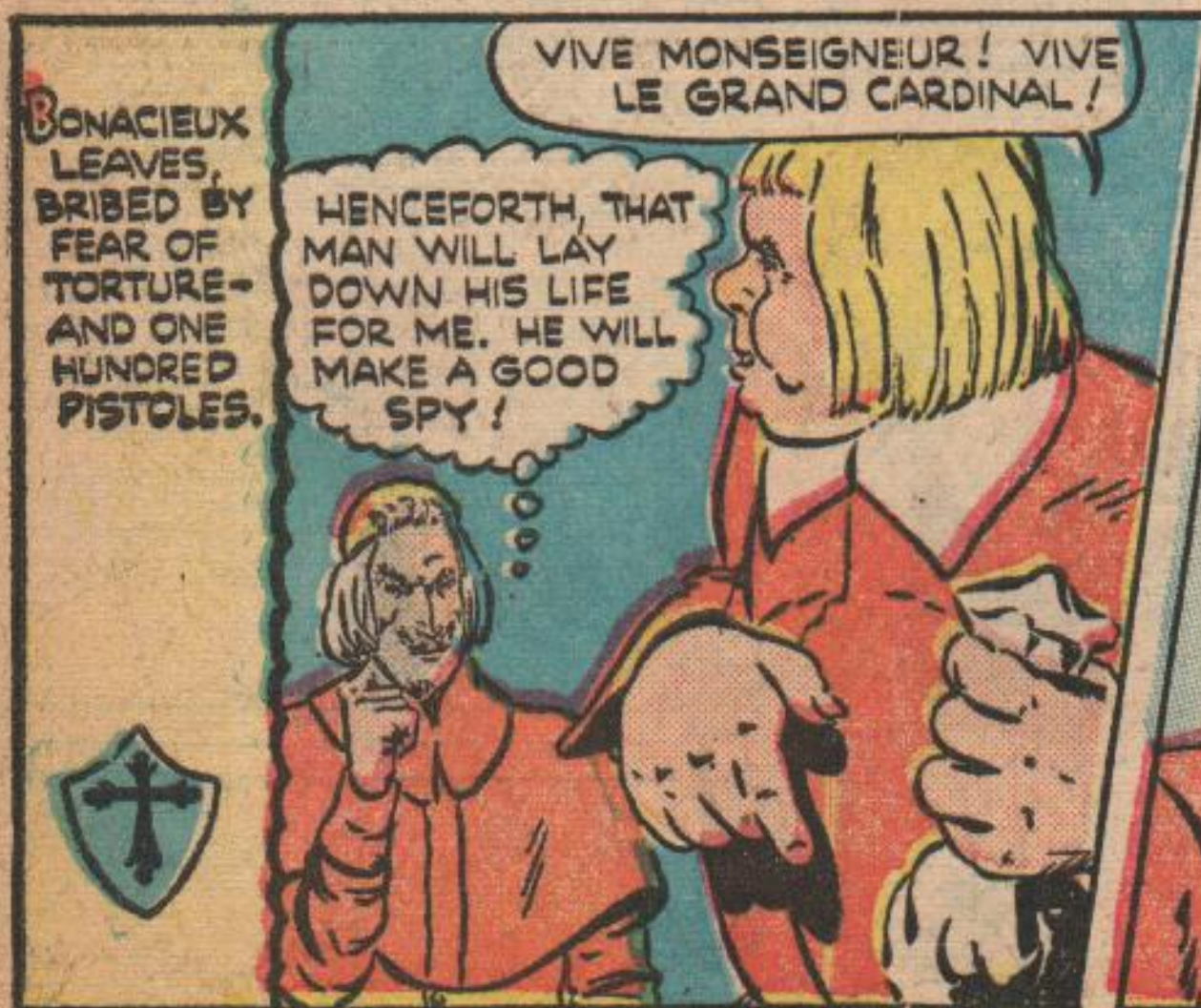
IS THAT BONACIEUX?

YES,  
MONSIEUR.

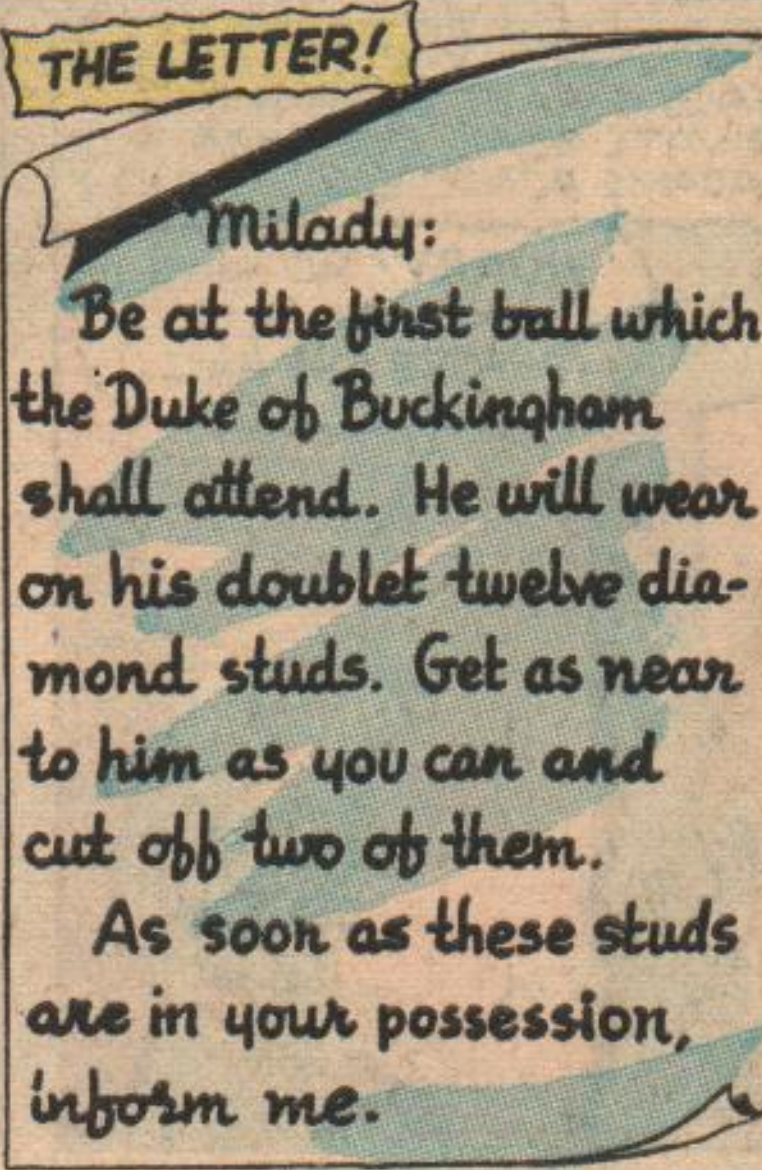
GIVE ME THE PAPERS  
FROM THE BASTILLE.













# CLASSICS Illustrated

**A**FTER THE KING LEAVES, THE QUEEN LEANS FOR SUPPORT ON THE TABLE.

I AM LOST!  
MY GOD! MY GOD!



**M**ADAME BONACIEUX, WHO HAS HEARD THE CONVERSATION FROM THE OTHER ROOM, ENTERS.

CAN I BE OF  
SERVICE TO  
YOUR MAJESTY?



OH, MADAME  
BONACIEUX, I AM  
BETRAYED! I MUST  
RETRIEVE THOSE  
STUDS!

I BELIEVE I HAVE A  
WAY OF EXTRICATING  
YOUR MAJESTY  
FROM HER  
TROUBLE!



I MUST PLACE MY LIFE, MY  
HONOR, MY REPUTATION IN YOUR  
HANDS. HOW CAN YOU HELP?

MY HUSBAND WILL DO ANY-  
THING I ASK. HE WILL DELIVER  
YOUR LETTER TO LONDON!

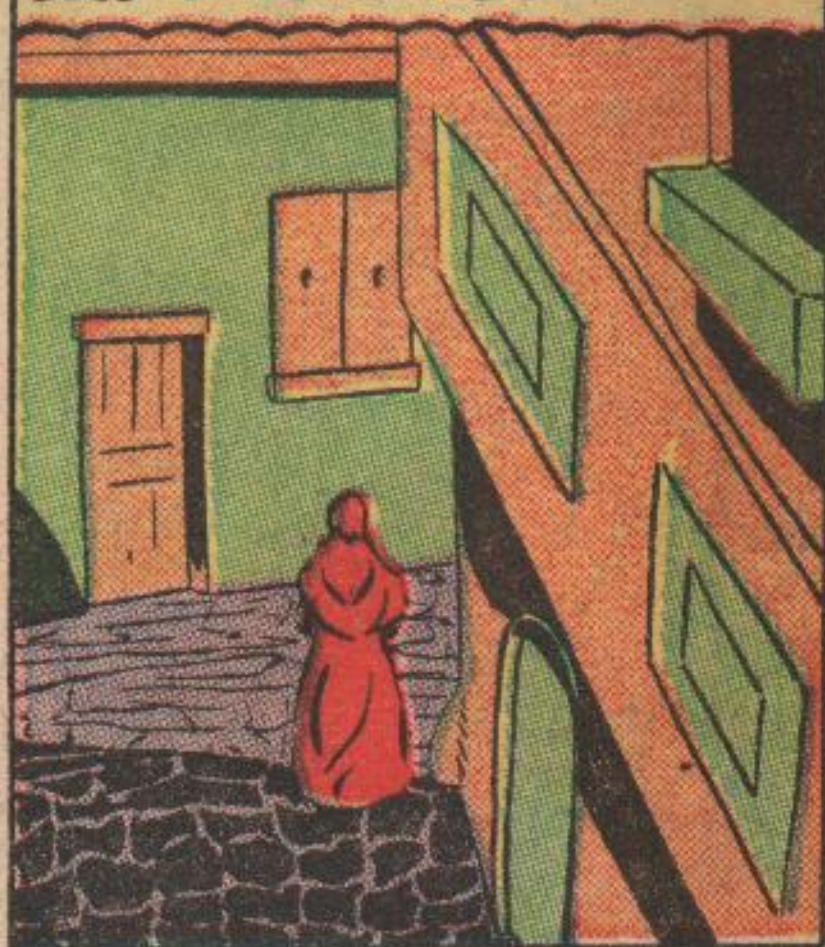


**T**HE QUEEN WRITES TWO LINES,  
SEALS THE LETTER WITH HER  
PRIVATE SEAL AND GIVES IT TO  
MADAME BONACIEUX.

**HURRY!** WE HAVE  
ONLY TWELVE DAYS  
BEFORE THE BALL.



**M**ME. BONACIEUX RETURNS TO  
HER HOME UNAWARE THAT IN HER  
ABSENCE HER HUSBAND HAS  
BECOME A CARDINAL SPY.



YOU MUST SET OUT TO LONDON  
IMMEDIATELY! I WILL GIVE YOU  
A PAPER WHICH YOU MUST NOT  
PART WITH, AND WHICH YOU  
WILL DELIVER INTO THE  
PROPER HANDS!



BUT WHY AM  
I TO GO?



AN ILLUSTRIOUS PERSON  
SENDS YOU; AN ILLUS-  
TRIOUS PERSON AWAITS  
YOU. THE RECOMPENSE  
IS GREAT - THAT IS  
ALL I PROMISE  
YOU!

AH! THE CARDINAL  
WILL BE INTEREST-  
ED IN THIS!

INTRIGUES! NOTHING  
BUT INTRIGUES! MONSIEUR  
LE CARDINAL HAS ENLIGHT-  
ENED ME ON THAT  
MATTER









# CLASSICS Illustrated

LOCKED IN THE ROOM, MADAME BONACIEUX AND D'ARTAGNAN LOOK OUT THROUGH A SLIT IN THE SHUTTER.

IT IS MY HUSBAND AND ROCHEFORT!

AHA! IT IS MY MAN OF MEUNG!

THEY ARE ENTERING THE APARTMENT. WE SHALL LISTEN TO THE CONVERSATION THROUGH THIS HOLE IN THE FLOOR.

THEN THE NEWS I HAVE BROUGHT YOU IS VALUABLE?

YES, MY DEAR BONACIEUX. DID SHE MENTION ANY NAMES?

NO. SHE ONLY TOLD ME SHE WISHED ME TO GO TO LONDON.

THEN AGREE TO ACCEPT THE MISSION AND, GET POSSESSION OF THE LETTER. WHEN YOU DO, MEET ME AT MY APARTMENT.

THEY HAVE GONE. NOW YOU MUST GO. COURAGE, MY FRIEND, AND, ABOVE ALL, PRUDENCE!

D'ARTAGNAN GOES TO ATHOS' APARTMENT, WHERE, LUCKILY, HE FINDS THE THREE MUSKETEERS.

GENTLEMEN, WE ARE GOING TO LONDON ON A MISSION OF MOST IMPORTANCE!

TO LONDON! AND WHAT THE DEVIL ARE WE GOING TO DO IN LONDON?

I'M NOT AT LIBERTY TO TELL YOU. YOU MUST TRUST ME!

THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME. D'ARTAGNAN, I AM READY TO FOLLOW YOU!

AND I!

AND I ALSO!



NOW LET US FIRST LAY DOWN THE PLAN OF THE CAMPAIGN. WHERE DO WE GO FIRST?

TO CALAIS; THAT IS THE MOST DIRECT LINE TO LONDON. THE CARDINAL KNOWS OF MY MISSION AND WILL TRY TO PREVENT ME FROM GETTING THERE.

I AM THE BEARER OF A LETTER. IF I SHOULD BE KILLED, ONE OF YOU MUST TAKE IT AND PURSUE THE ROUTE; IF HE BE KILLED, IT WILL BE ANOTHER'S TURN; **THE LETTER MUST REACH LONDON!**

AT TWO O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, THE FOUR ADVENTURERS AND THEIR LACKEYS START ON THEIR PERILOUS JOURNEY.



ALL GOES WELL UNTIL THEY REACH CHANTILLY. AS THEY ARE FINISHING BREAKFAST, A MAN ENTERS THE INN.



HERE'S TO THE HEALTH OF THE CARDINAL. DRINK WITH ME!

WITH PLEASURE, IF YOU IN TURN WILL DRINK TO THE HEALTH OF THE KING!



I ACKNOWLEDGE NO OTHER KING THAN HIS EMINENCE!

YOU ARE DRUNK!



AT THIS THE STRANGER DREW HIS SWORD. PORTHOS ATTACKS, PROMISING HIS ADVERSARY TO PERFORATE HIM WITH ALL THE KNOWN THRUSTS IN FENCING SCHOOL.

YOU HAVE COMMITTED A FOLLY. KILL THE FELLOW AND JOIN US AS SOON AS YOU CAN.



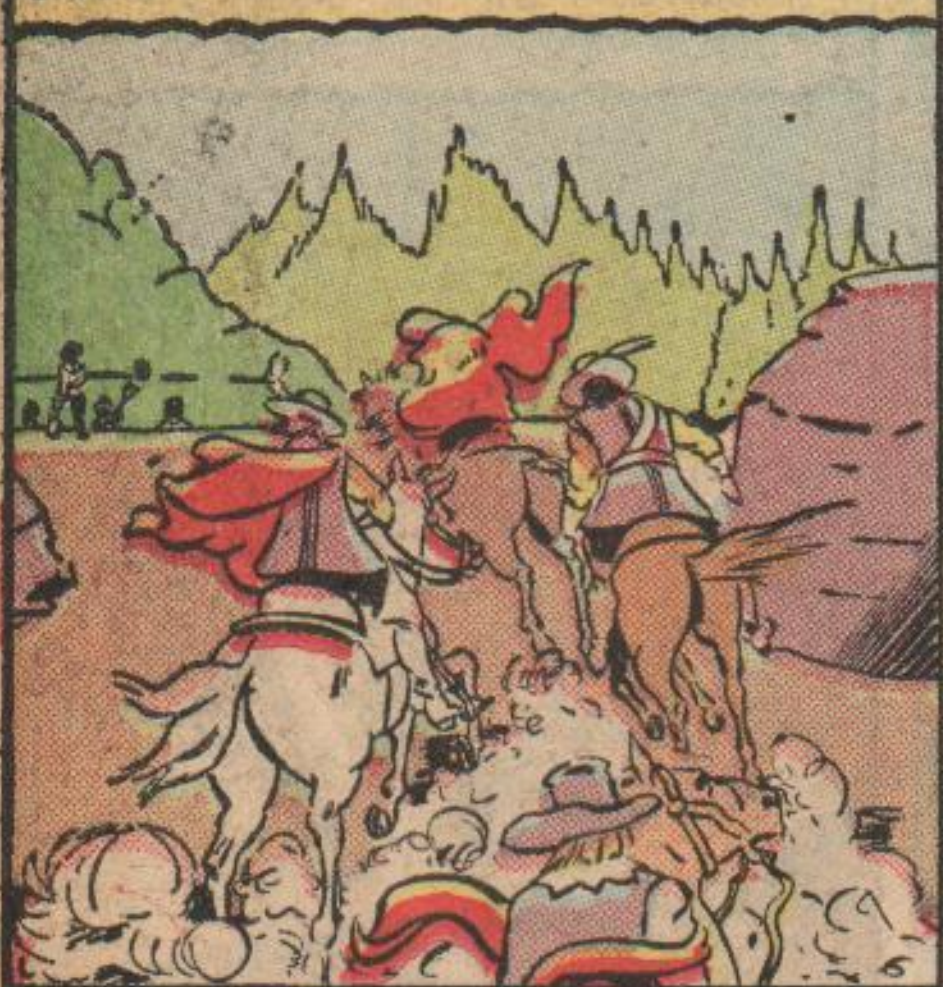
THE OTHERS MOUNT THEIR HORSES AND RIDE OFF. AFTER AN HOUR'S RIDE, PORTHOS HAD NOT COME.

THERE GOES ONE!





**A** LEAGUE BEYOND BEAUVAIS, THEY COME UPON EIGHT LABORERS WORKING ON THE ROAD.



**A**S THE TRAVELERS DRAW ABREAST, THE WORKERS LEAP INTO A DITCH, SEIZE CONCEALED MUSKETS AND FIRE ON THE PARTY. THE MUSKETEERS SPUR THEIR HORSES AND CHARGE THROUGH.



**M**OSQUETON, PORTHOS' LACKEY, IS SHOT FROM HIS HORSE. ARAMIS RECEIVES A BALL THROUGH THE SHOULDER, BUT CONTINUES ON --



**A**T GRÉVECOUER, ARAMIS IS TOO WICK TO PROCEED FURTHER. THEY LEAVE HIM IN THE CARE OF BAZIN, HIS LACKEY, AND SET FORWARD.

**MORBLEU!** REDUCED TO TWO MASTERS AND THEIR LACKEYS!



**T**HEY SPEND THE NIGHT AT AN INN. IN THE MORNING THEY PREPARE TO LEAVE.

ATHOS, YOU PAY THE HOST OUR RECKONING; PLANCHET AND I WILL GET THE HORSES.



THIS MONEY IS BAD! I'LL HAVE YOU ARRESTED AS COINERS!

**YOU SCOUNDREL!** I'LL CUT OFF YOUR EARS!



**A**T THE INKEEPER'S CRY FOR HELP, FOUR MEN, ARMED TO THE TEETH, ENTER BY A SIDE DOOR AND RUSH UPON ATHOS.

I AM TAKEN! GO ON, D'ARTAGNAN, SPUR, SPUR!



**D'**ARTAGNAN LEAPS ON HIS HORSE AND GALLOPS OFF --

**BRAVE ATHOS!**





D'ARTAGNAN ARRIVES AT THE PORT OF CALAIS. A GENTLEMAN IS TALKING TO THE CAPTAIN OF A VESSEL.

NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO CROSS WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION FROM THE CARDINAL!

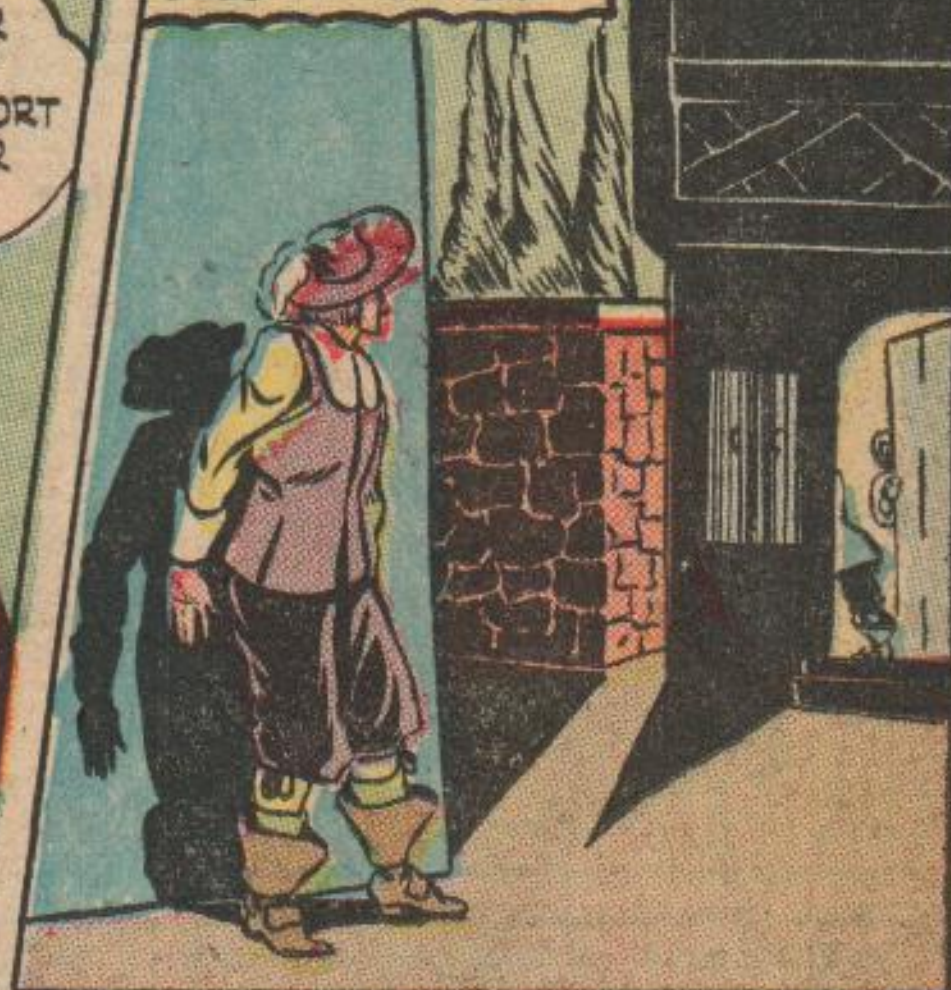


I HAVE PERMISSION. HERE IT IS!

HAVE YOUR LETTER EXAMINED BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE PORT AND GIVE ME YOUR PREFERENCE.



D'ARTAGNAN FOLLOWS THE MAN TO THE GOVERNOR'S HOUSE AND SEES HIM ENTER.



ON THE WAY BACK, D'ARTAGNAN ACCOSTS THE GENTLEMAN.

MONSIEUR, I WANT THAT LETTER OF WHICH YOU ARE THE BEARER, SEEING THAT I HAVE NONE.

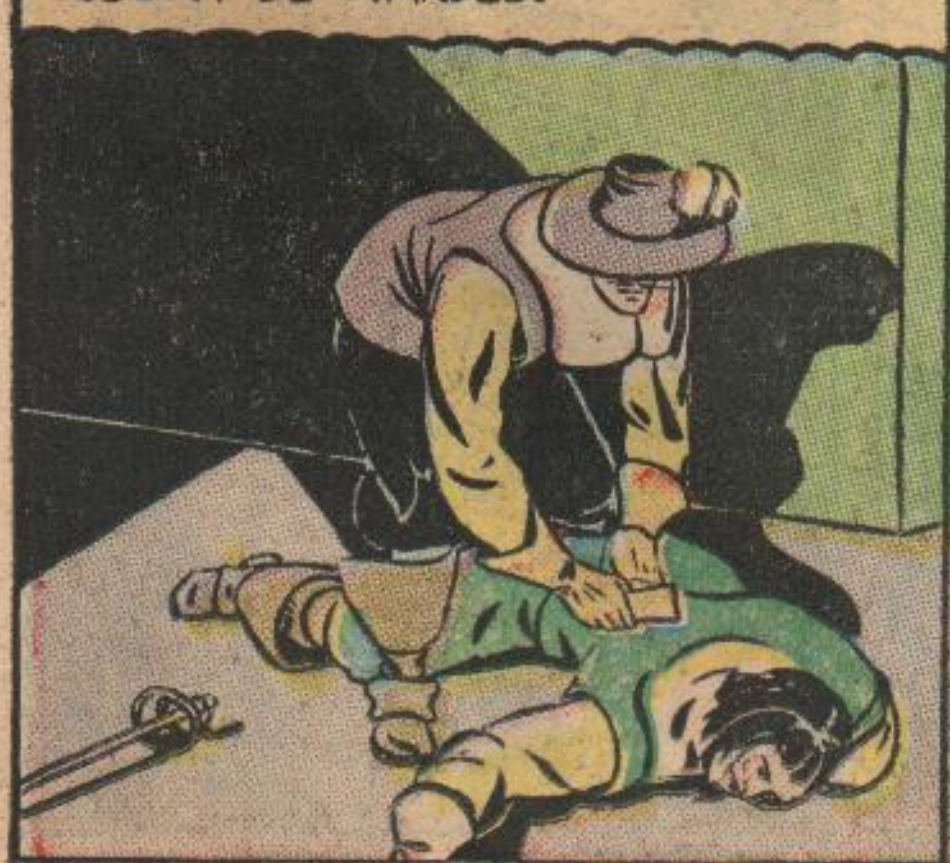
YOU ARE JOKING, I PRESUME!



I SELDOM JOKE! ON GUARD!



D'ARTAGNAN QUICKLY DROPS HIS OPPONENT AND TAKES HIS ORDER FOR PASSAGE. IT IS IN THE NAME OF COUNT DE WARDES.

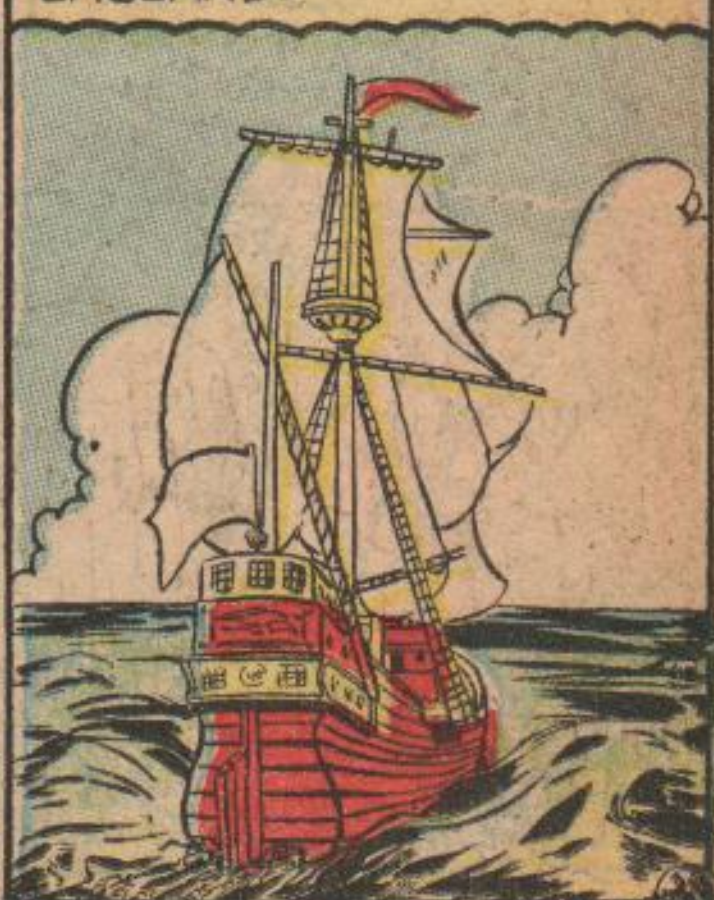


D'ARTAGNAN RUNS TO THE SHIP AND PRESENTS THE LETTER TO THE CAPTAIN.

GOOD! WE SAIL IMMEDIATELY!

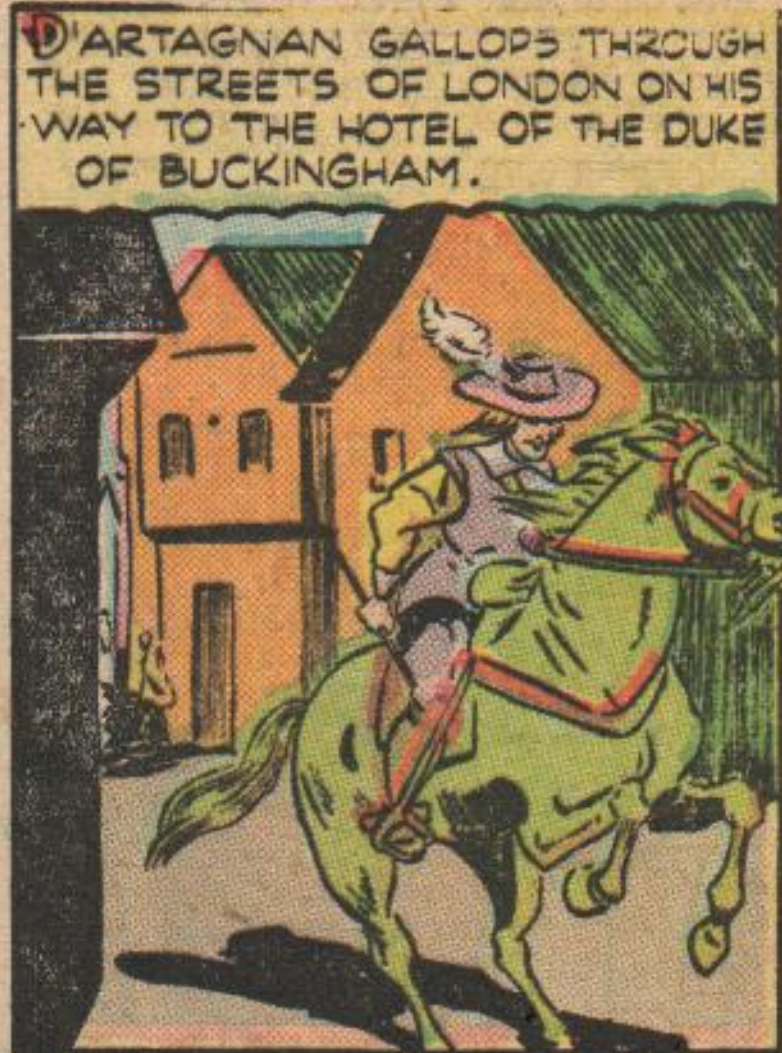


UNDER FULL SAIL, THE SHIP CROSSES THE CHANNEL TO ENGLAND.

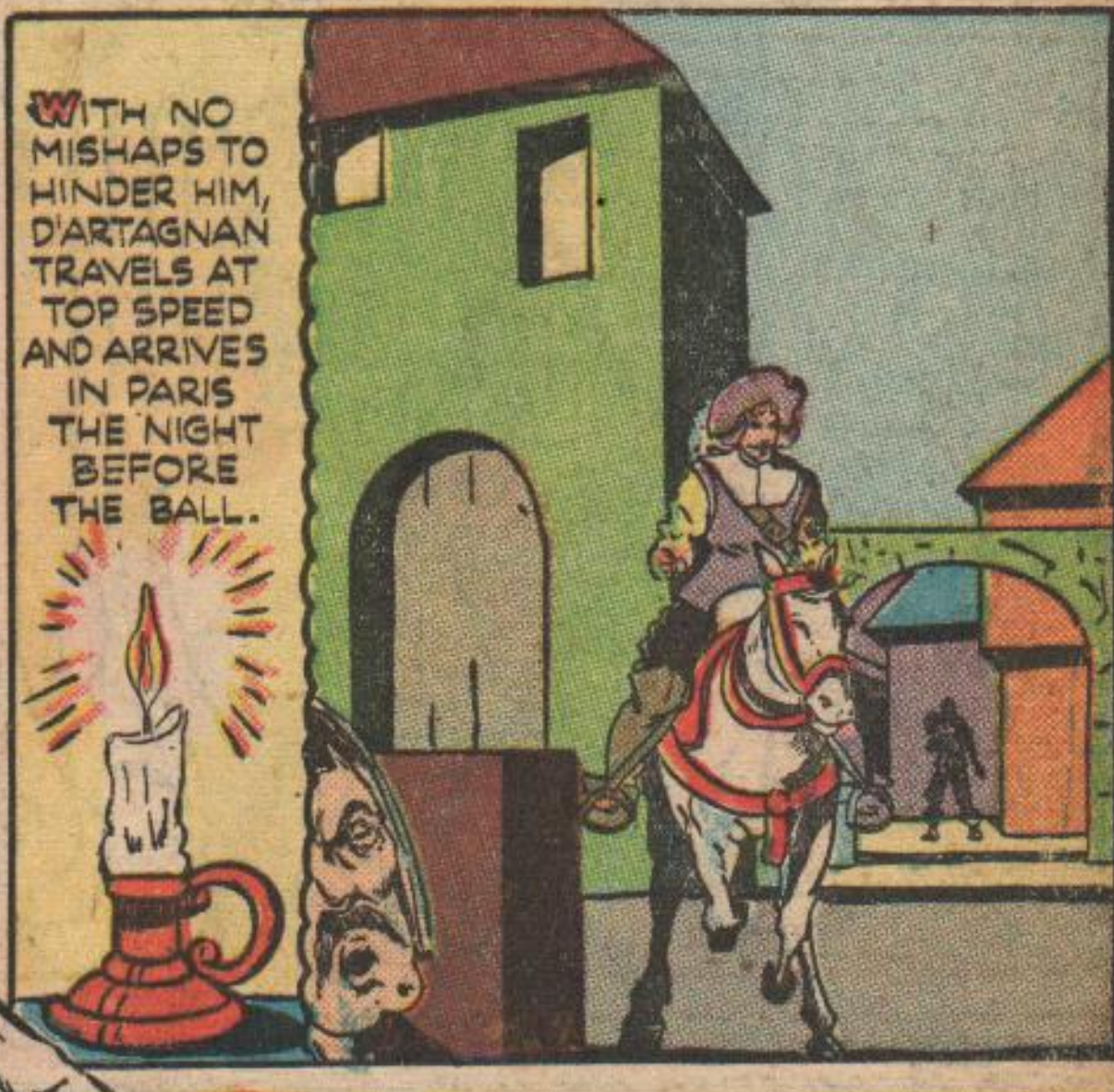




# CLASSICS Illustrated







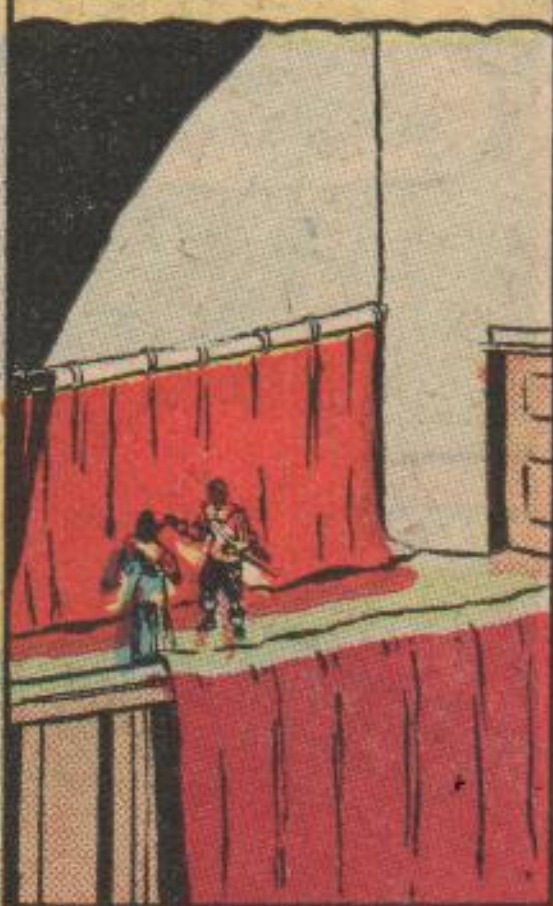


# CLASSICS Illustrated

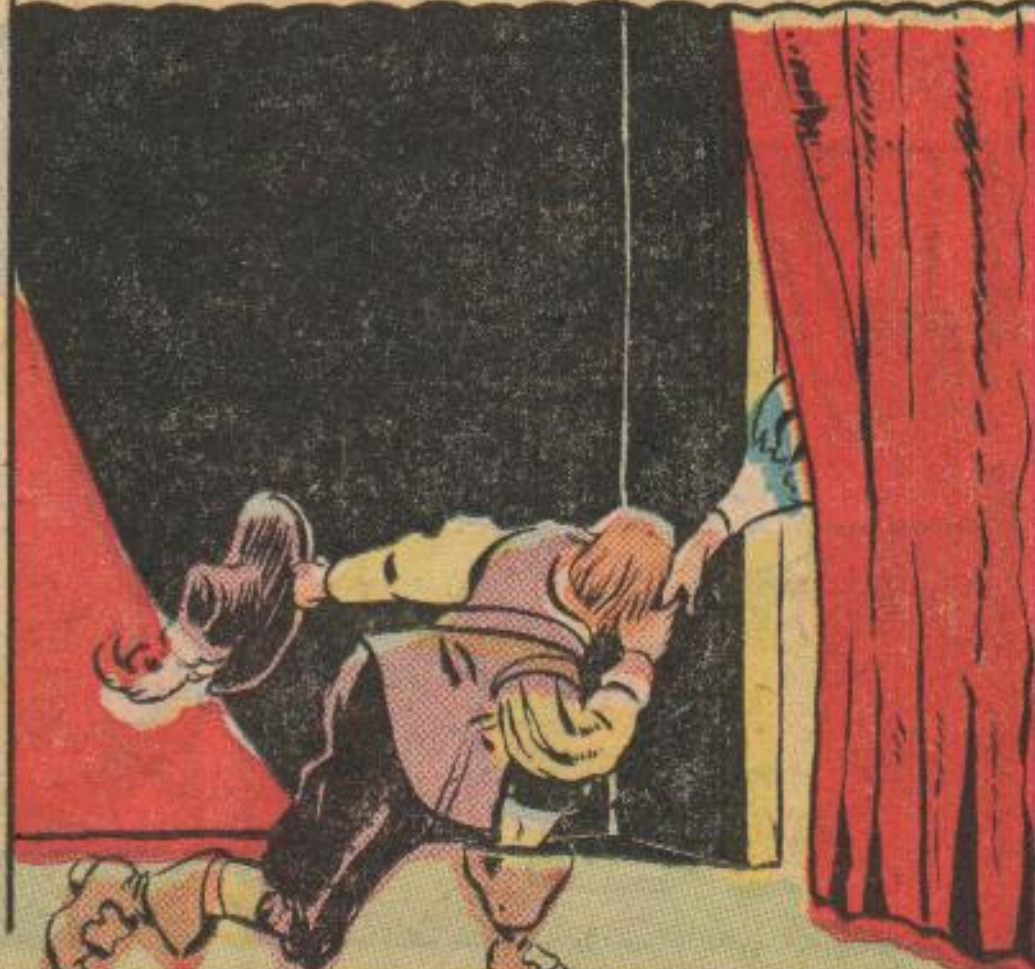
D'ARTAGNAN, ON DUTY AT THE BALL, IS ABOUT TO RETIRE, WHEN A MASKED WOMAN BECKONS HIM.



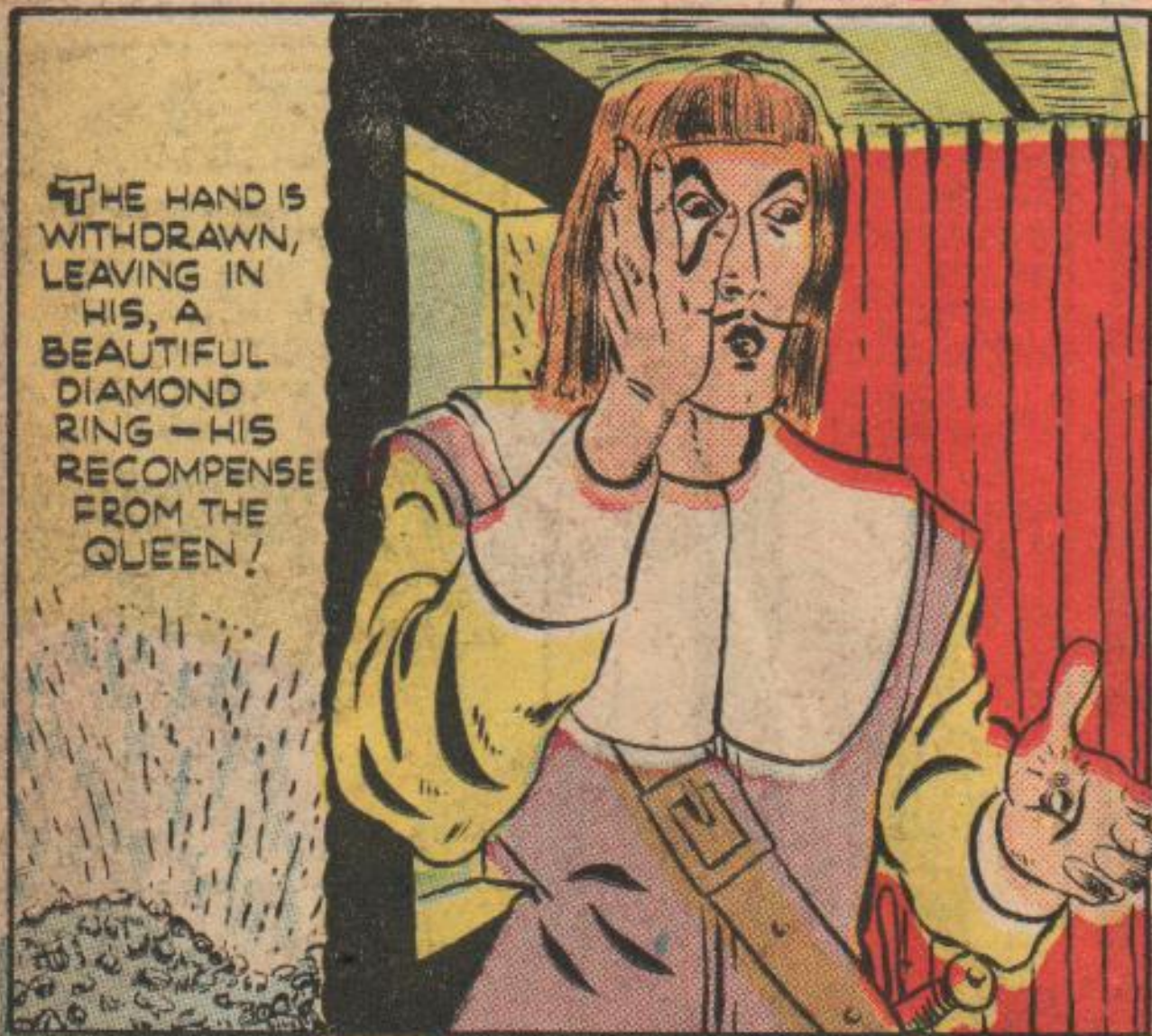
D'ARTAGNAN FOLLOWS HER TO A SMALL DARK ROOM, SHUT OFF BY CURTAINS FROM A LARGER ROOM.



AT LENGTH, A HAND AND AN ARM, SURPASSINGLY BEAUTIFUL, GLIDES THROUGH THE TAPESTRY. D'ARTAGNAN KNEELS AND KISSES THE HAND.



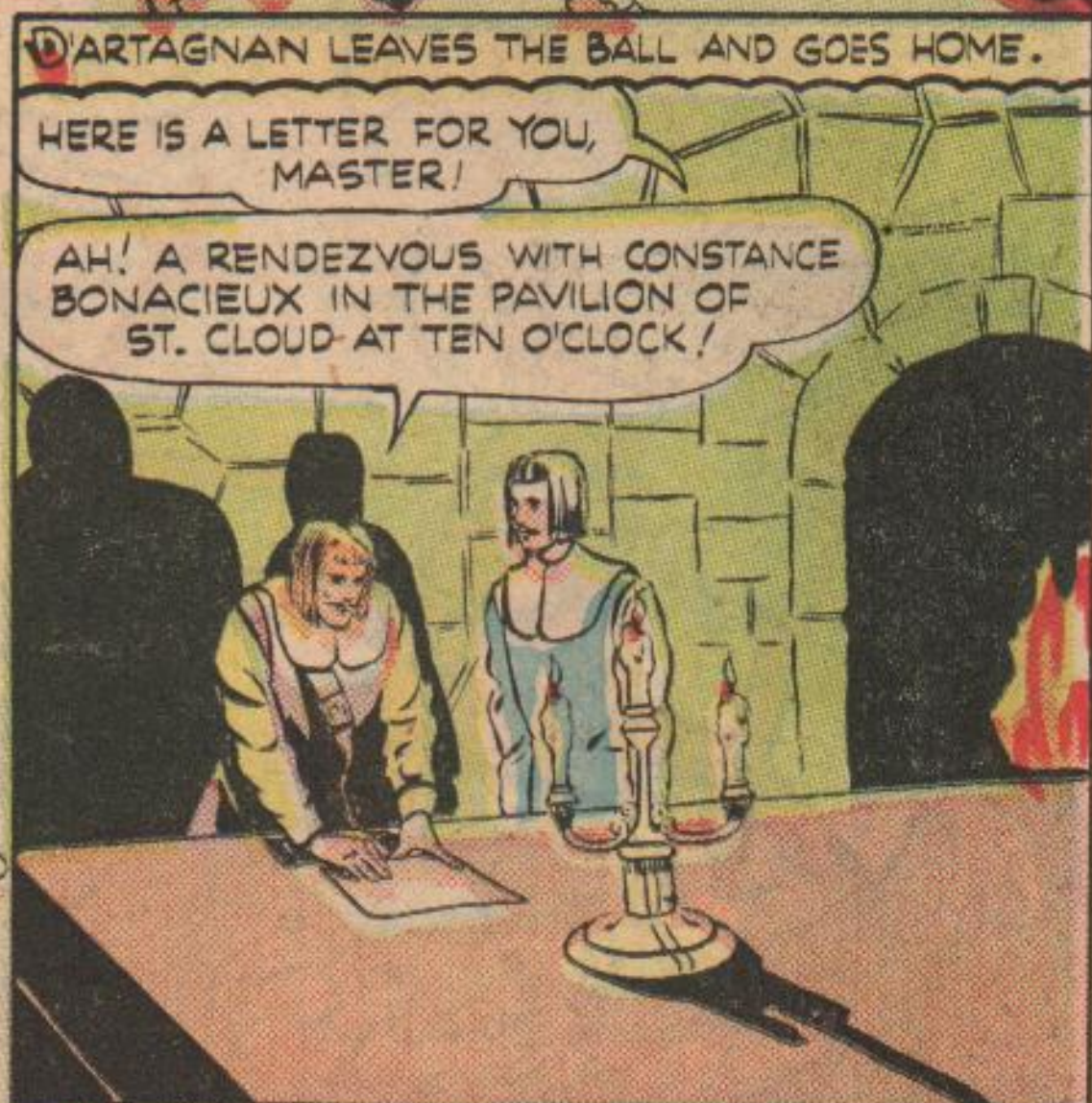
THE HAND IS WITHDRAWN, LEAVING IN HIS, A BEAUTIFUL DIAMOND RING - HIS RECOMPENSE FROM THE QUEEN!



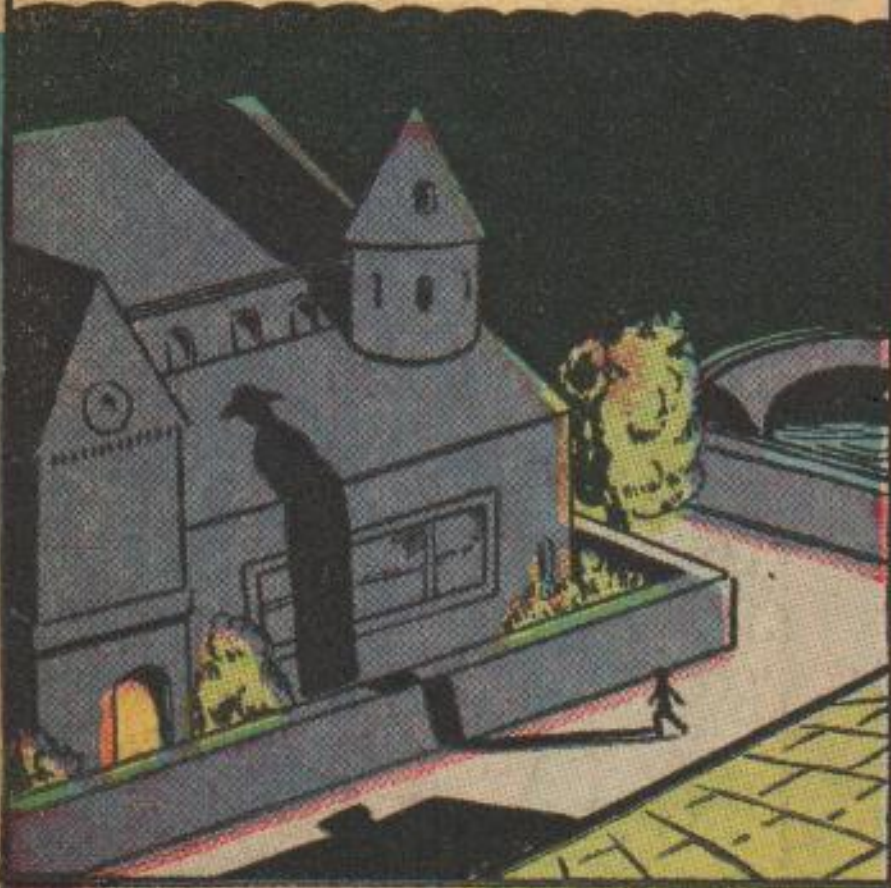
D'ARTAGNAN LEAVES THE BALL AND GOES HOME.

HERE IS A LETTER FOR YOU, MASTER!

AH! A RENDEZVOUS WITH CONSTANCE BONACIEUX IN THE PAVILION OF ST. CLOUD - AT TEN O'CLOCK!



THE FOLLOWING EVENING, D'ARTAGNAN ARRIVES AT THE PAVILION TO KEEP HIS APPOINTMENT.



HOURS PASS AND HE BECOMES UNEASY. HE EXAMINES THE GROUND FOR SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE.



HIS WORST FEARS ARE REALIZED! HE PICKS UP A WOMAN'S TORN GLOVE!

NOM de DIEU!! THE CARDINAL HAS CARRIED HER OFF AGAIN!





# CLASSICS Illustrated

D'ARTAGNAN GOES TO DE TREVILLE'S HOTEL AND RELATES ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED.

HUM! ALL THIS SAVORS OF HIS EMINENCE A LEAGUE OFF!

BUT WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

NOTHING. ABSOLUTELY NOTHING AT PRESENT. I WILL SEE THE QUEEN. YOU, MEANWHILE, QUIT PARIS AND LOOK FOR YOUR FRIENDS!

DETERMINED TO FOLLOW DE TREVILLE'S ADVICE, D'ARTAGNAN GOES HOME.

PACK OUR EQUIPMENT, PLANCHET, AND LET US DISCOVER WHAT HAS BECOME OF PORTHOS, ARAMIS AND ATHOS!

THEY SET OUT AND ARRIVE IN CHANTILLY, ALIGHTING AT THE SAME HOTEL THEY STOPPED AT ON THEIR FIRST JOURNEY.

THE HOST GREETS THEM.

AH! MONSIEUR! I BELIEVE THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME I HAVE SEEN YOU!

I WAS HERE TEN DAYS AGO. I WAS CONDUCTING SOME FRIENDS, ONE OF WHOM HAD A DISPUTE WITH A STRANGER.

AH! EXACTLY SO! IS IT NOT M. PORTHOS THAT YOUR LORDSHIP MEANS?

YES. THAT IS HE. I HOPE NOTHING HAS HAPPENED TO HIM.

HE IS WOUNDED, BUT HE HAS FORBIDDEN ME STRICTLY TO SAY SO!

AND WHY SO?

HE IS VERY VAIN, AND, DESPITE HIS BOASTING, WAS QUICKLY BROUGHT DOWN BY THE STRANGER.

THAT'S PORTHOS ALL OVER! CAN I SEE HIM?

CERTAINLY; ONLY WARN HIM THAT IT IS YOU.

WARN HIM? WHY SHOULD I DO THAT?

M. PORTHOS MAY IMAGINE YOU BELONG TO THE HOTEL AND BLOW OUT YOUR BRAINS!

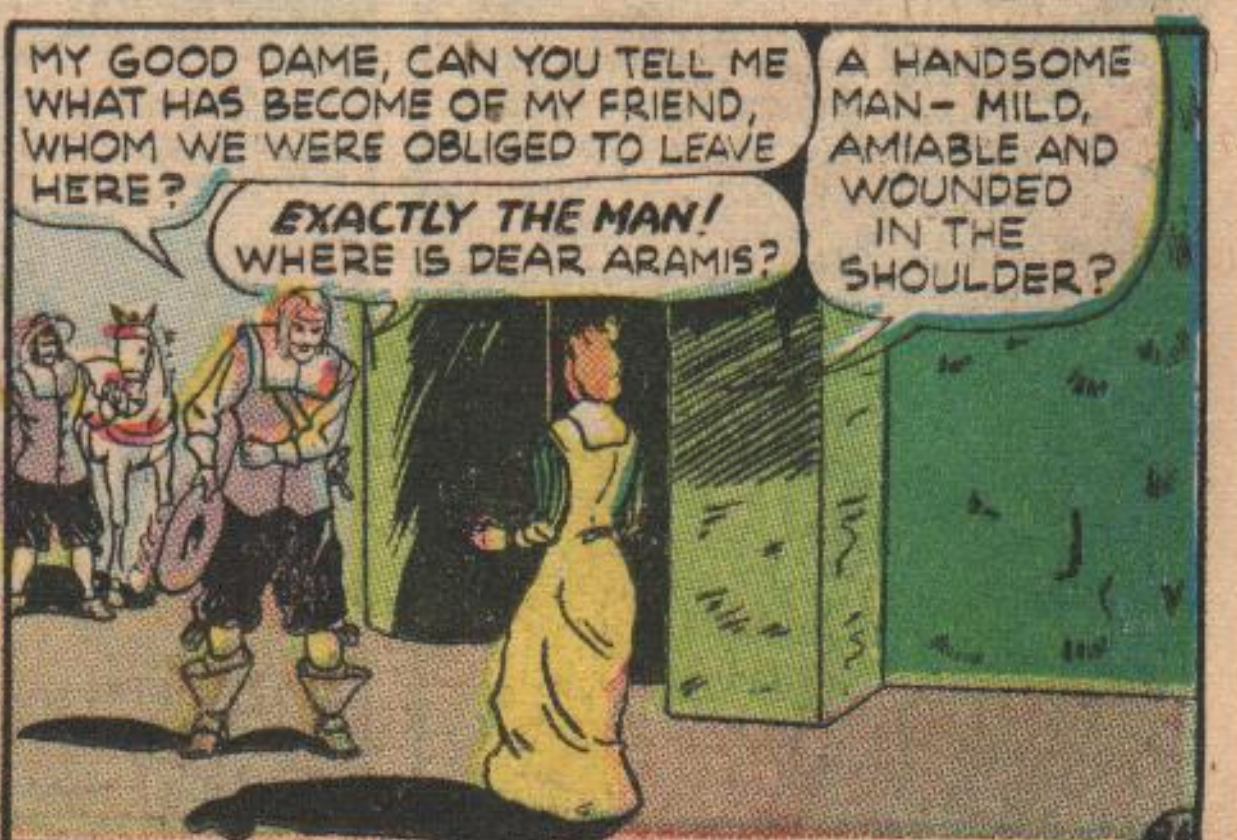
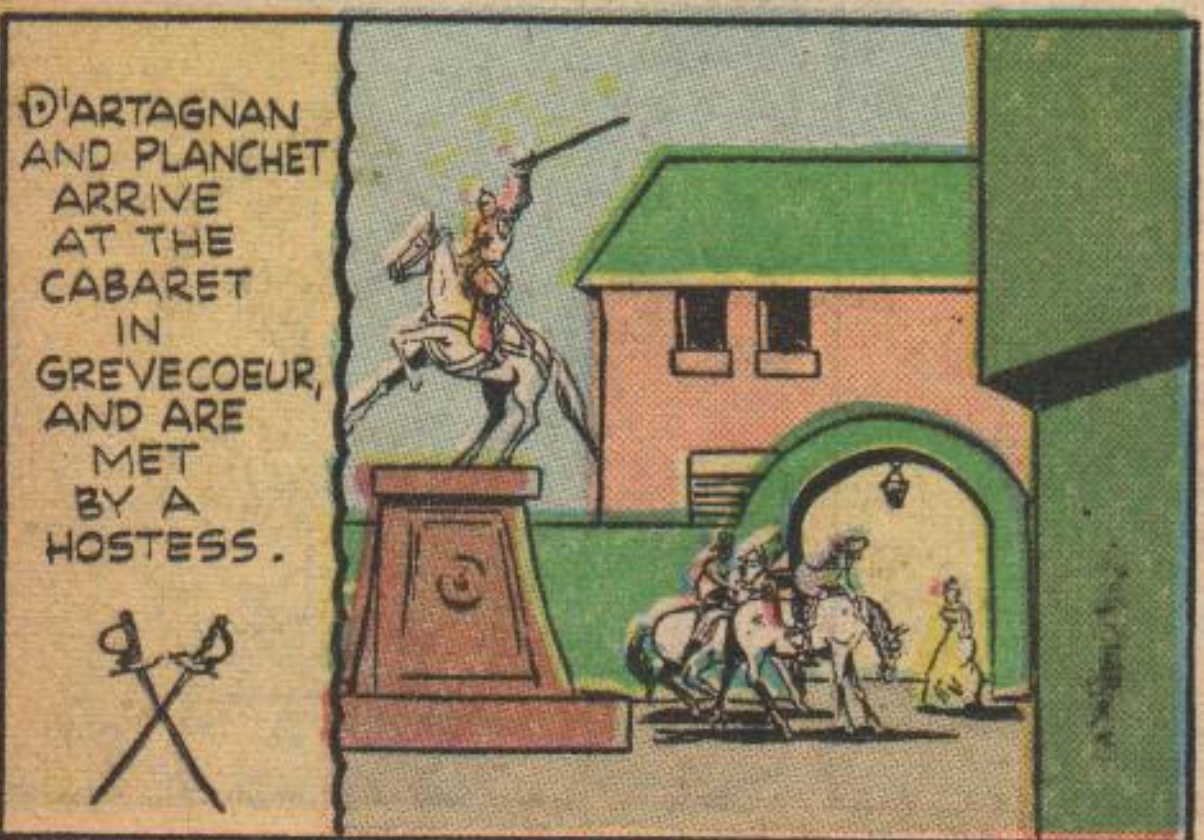
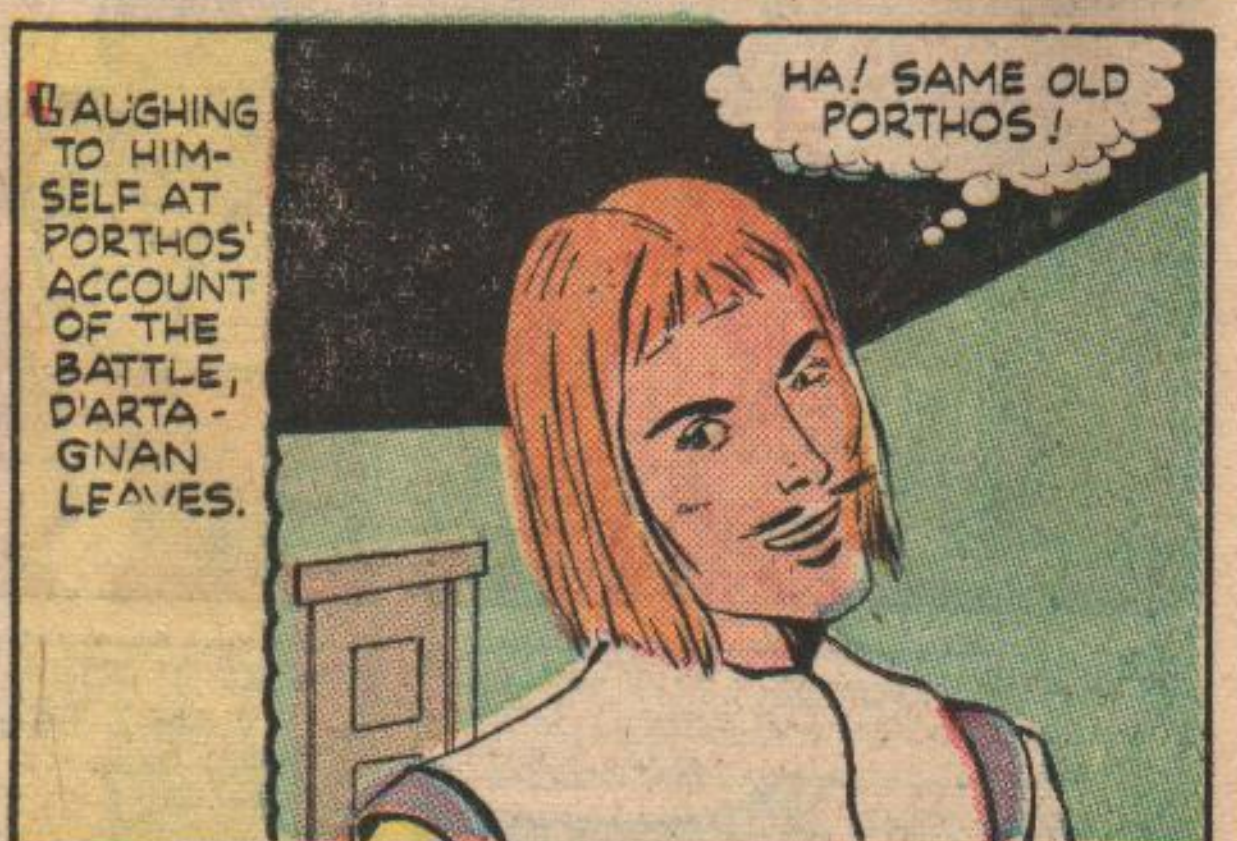
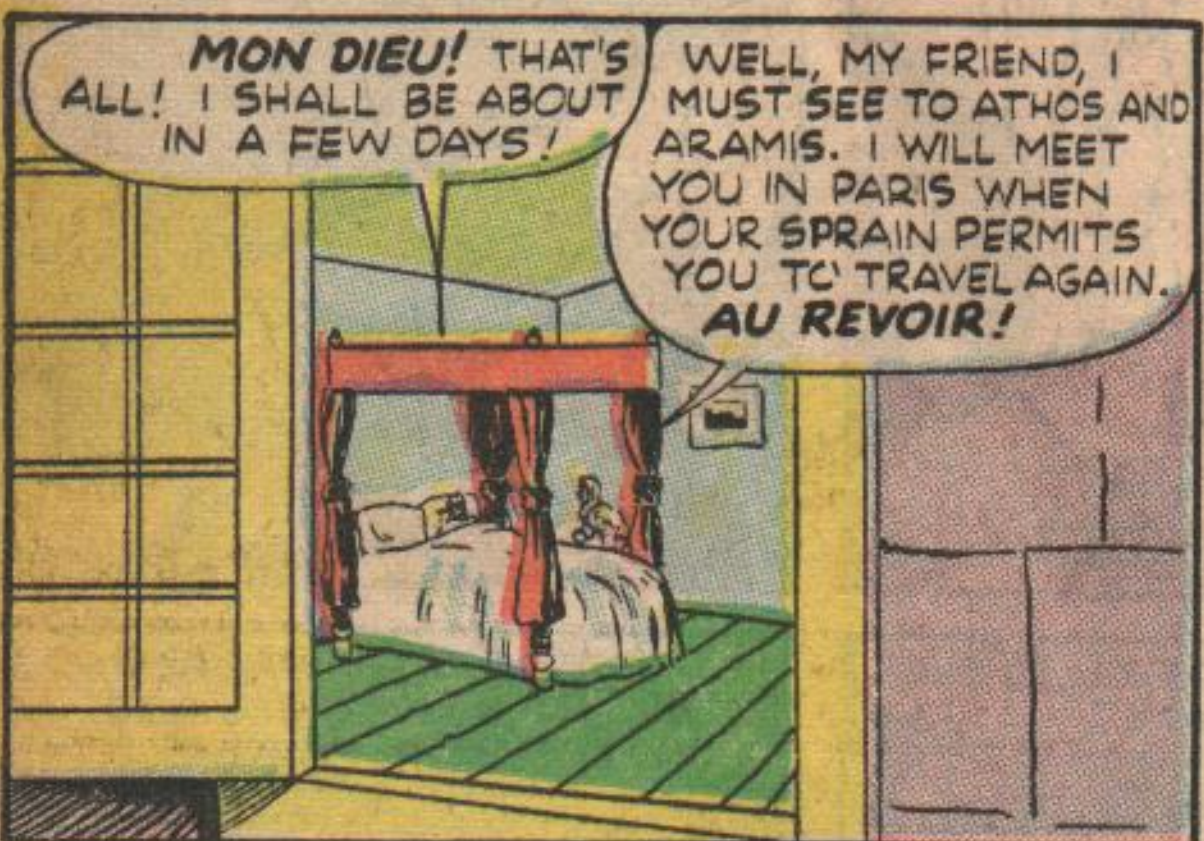
WHY? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?

WE ASKED HIM FOR MONEY!

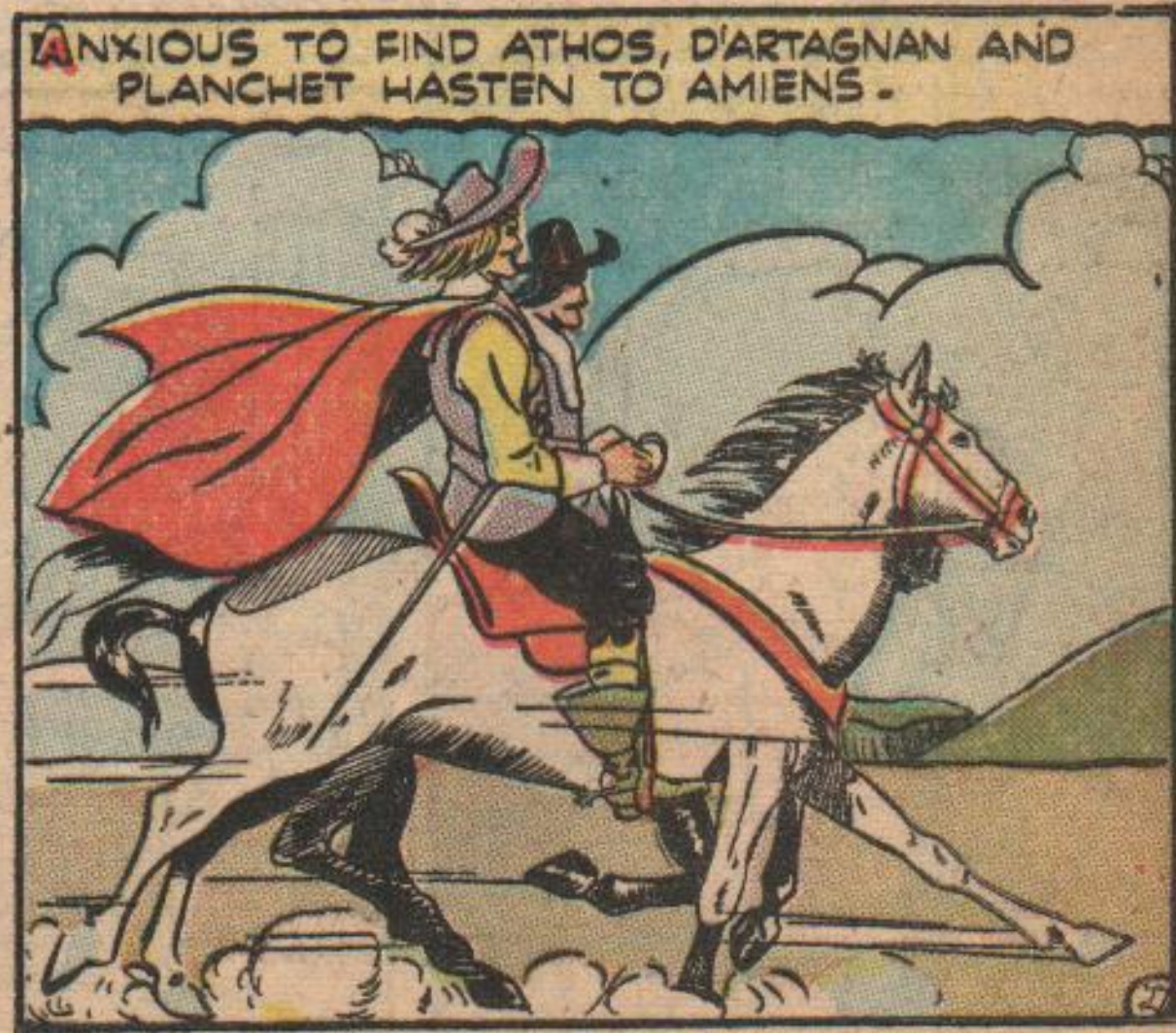




D'ARTAGNAN ENTERS PORTHOS' ROOM AND FINDS HIM IN BED.









THEY ENTER THE CURSED HOTEL WHERE THEY HAD LAST SEEN ATHOS.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THAT GENTLEMAN WHOM YOU ACCUSED TWELVE DAYS AGO OF PASSING BAD MONEY?

AH, MONSIEUR! HOW DEARLY HAVE I PAID FOR THAT FAULT!

THAT GENTLEMAN, I SAY! WHAT HAS BECOME OF HIM?

DEIGN TO LISTEN TO ME, MONSIEUR, AND BE MERCIFUL!

SPEAK, YOU WRETCH!

AFTER KILLING ONE MAN AND SAVAGELY WOUNDING TWO OTHERS, HE AND HIS LACKEY BARRICADED THEMSELVES IN MY CELLAR.

AND WHERE IS HE NOW?

IN THE CELLAR, WHERE HE AND HIS SERVANT HAVE EATEN ALL MY FOOD AND DRUNK ALL MY WINE!

WHAT! YOU SCOUNDREL! YOU HAVE KEPT HIM IN THE CELLAR ALL THIS TIME!

MERCIFUL HEAVEN! HE PERSISTS IN REMAINING THERE - WE CANNOT GET HIM OUT!

SO FROM THAT TIME -?

-SO FROM THAT TIME HE HAS RUINED ME! ALL MY PROVISIONS ARE THERE AND HE REFUSES ME ADMITTANCE! I AM FORCED TO TURN AWAY TRAVELERS FOR WANT OF FOOD AND DRINK!

LAUGHING HEARTILY, D'ARTAGNAN RESCUES ATHOS AND GRIMAUD.

HOLA! MY FRIENDS - YOUR SIEGE IS OVER!

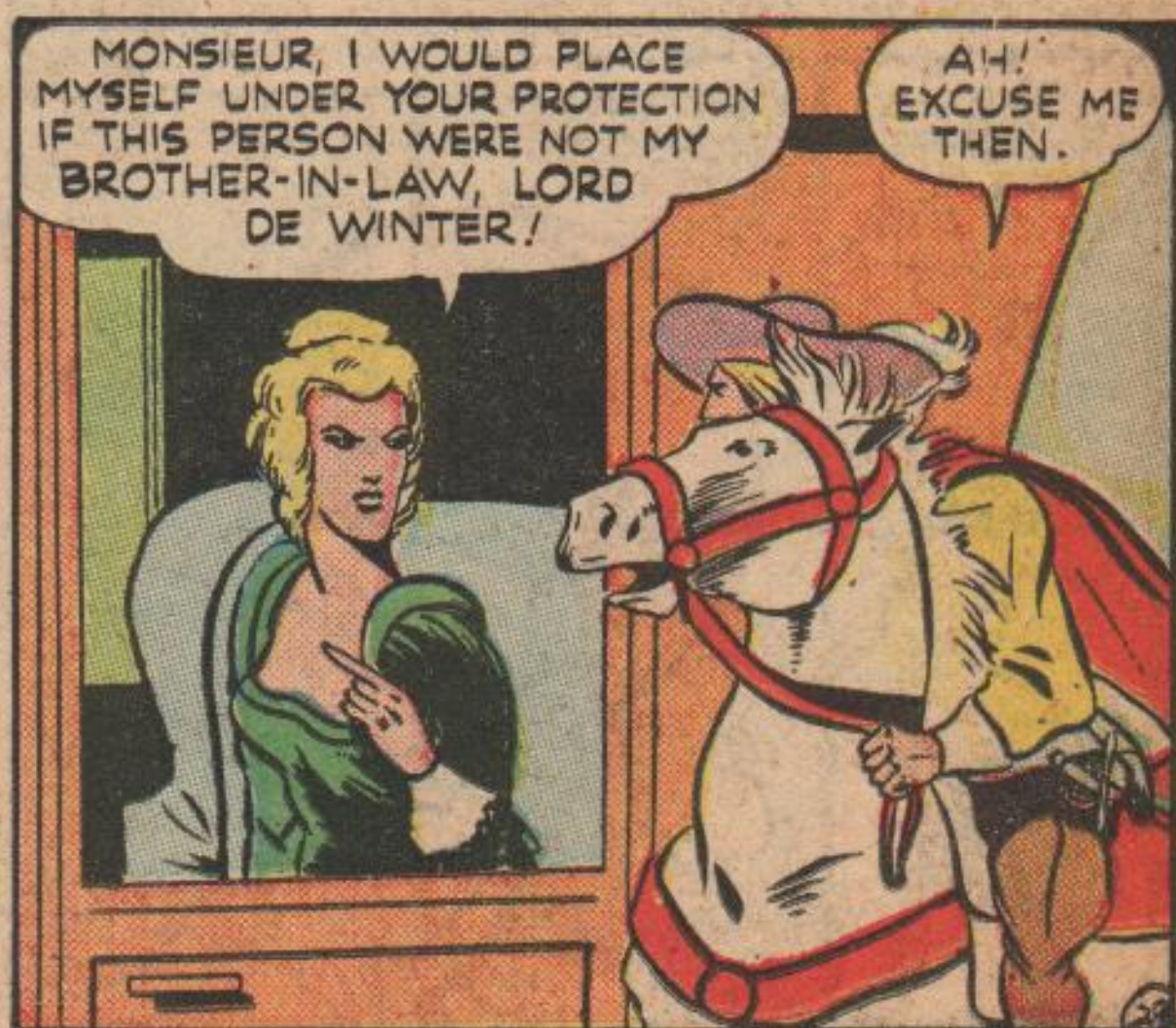
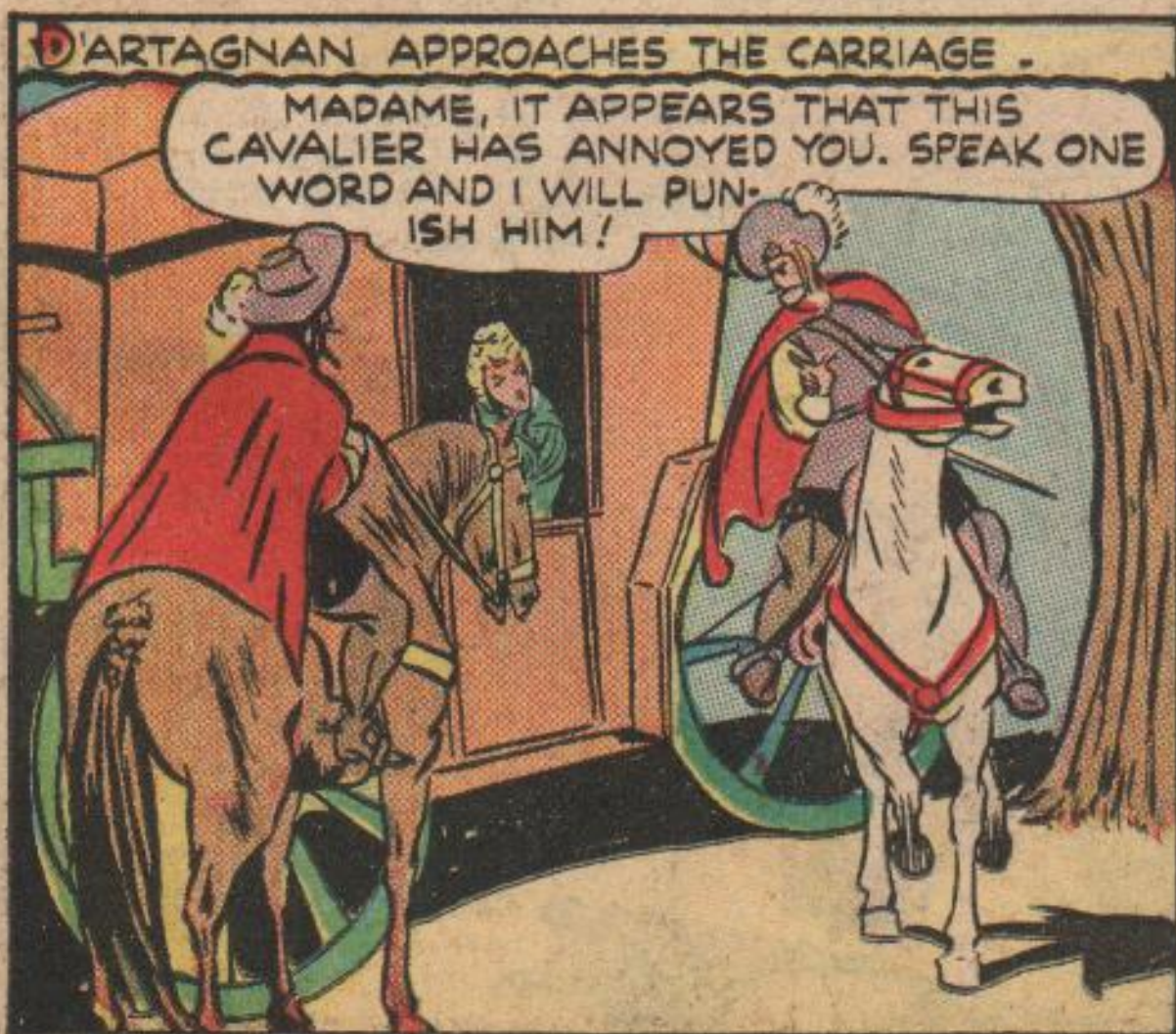
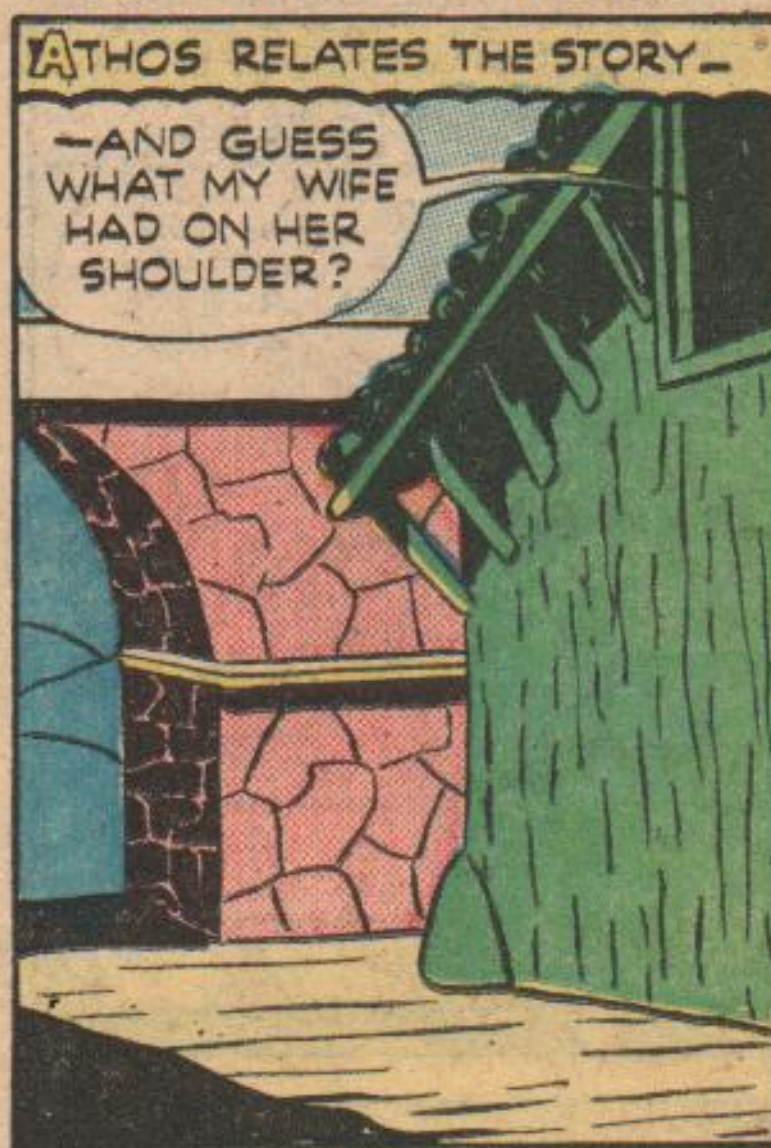
THEY SIT DOWN TO DRINK AND D'ARTAGNAN TELLS ATHOS HOW HE LOST HIS MADAME BONACEUX.

TRIFLES! NOTHING BUT TRIFLES!

THAT COMES VERY ILL FROM YOU WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN IN LOVE!

PARDIEU! I SHALL RELATE TO YOU A REAL TALE OF LOVE!









WHAT IS THAT STUPID FELLOW TROUBLING HIMSELF ABOUT?

DRIVER, GO ON - HOME.



THE CAVALIER ATTEMPTS TO FOLLOW THE CARRIAGE, BUT D'ARTAGNAN SEIZES HIS REINS.

YOU FORGET THERE IS A LITTLE QUARREL TO ARRANGE!

YOU SEE PLAINLY I HAVE NO SWORD!



VERY WELL, GO HOME. PICK OUT THE LONGEST AND MEET ME THIS EVENING BEHIND THE LUXEMBOURG!

I WILL BE THERE. APROPOS, YOU HAVE PROBABLY ONE OR TWO FRIENDS?



HUMPH! I HAVE THREE WHO WOULD BE HONORED IN JOINING THE SPORT!

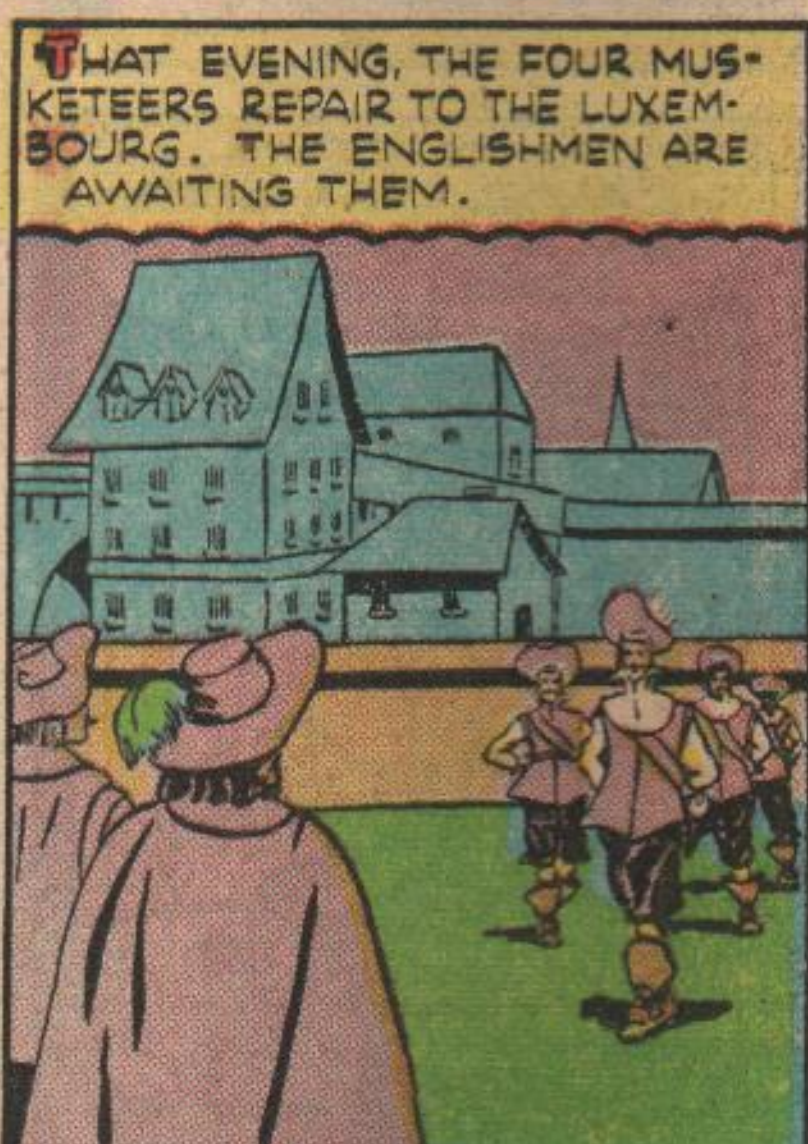
THREE! THAT'S FORTUNATE! THREE IS JUST MY NUMBER.



D'ARTAGNAN INFORMS HIS THREE FRIENDS OF THE DUEL.

HOLA! THIS TIME I'LL PERFORATE MY MAN LIKE A PIN-CUSHION!

ONCE WILL BE ENOUGH!



THAT EVENING, THE FOUR MUSKETEERS REPAIR TO THE LUXEMBOURG. THE ENGLISHMEN ARE AWAITING THEM.



THE ENGLISHMEN ARE ALL MEN OF RANK AND WHEN INTRODUCED ARE SURPRISED AT THE NAMES OF THEIR ADVERSARIES.

WHY, THEY ARE SHEPHERD'S NAMES! AS GENTLEMEN, WE CANNOT FIGHT WITH SUCH!



THEREFORE, YOUR LORDSHIP MAY SUPPOSE THEY ARE ONLY ASSUMED NAMES!

WE FIGHT ONLY WITH EQUALS!





AND THAT IS BUT JUST!

HE TAKES ASIDE ONE OF THE ENGLISHMEN AND COMMUNICATES HIS NAME IN A LOW VOICE. PORTHOS AND ARAMIS DO THE SAME.



DOES THAT SATISFY YOU? DO YOU THINK ME SUFFICIENTLY NOBLE TO CROSS SWORDS WITH ME?

YES, MONSIEUR.



WELL, YOU WOULD HAVE ACTED MUCH MORE WISELY IF YOU HAD NOT REQUIRED ME TO MAKE MYSELF KNOWN!

WHY SO?



BECAUSE I AM BELIEVED TO BE DEAD, AND SHALL BE OBLIGED TO KILL YOU TO PREVENT MY SECRET FROM BEING KNOWN!



GENTLEMEN, ON GUARD!

IMMEDIATELY, EIGHT SWORDS GLITTER IN THE RAYS OF THE SETTING SUN.



PORTHOS, HITS HIS MAN BUT ONCE: BUT THAT HIT IS A MORTAL ONE — THE SWORD PASSES THROUGH HIS VITALS!



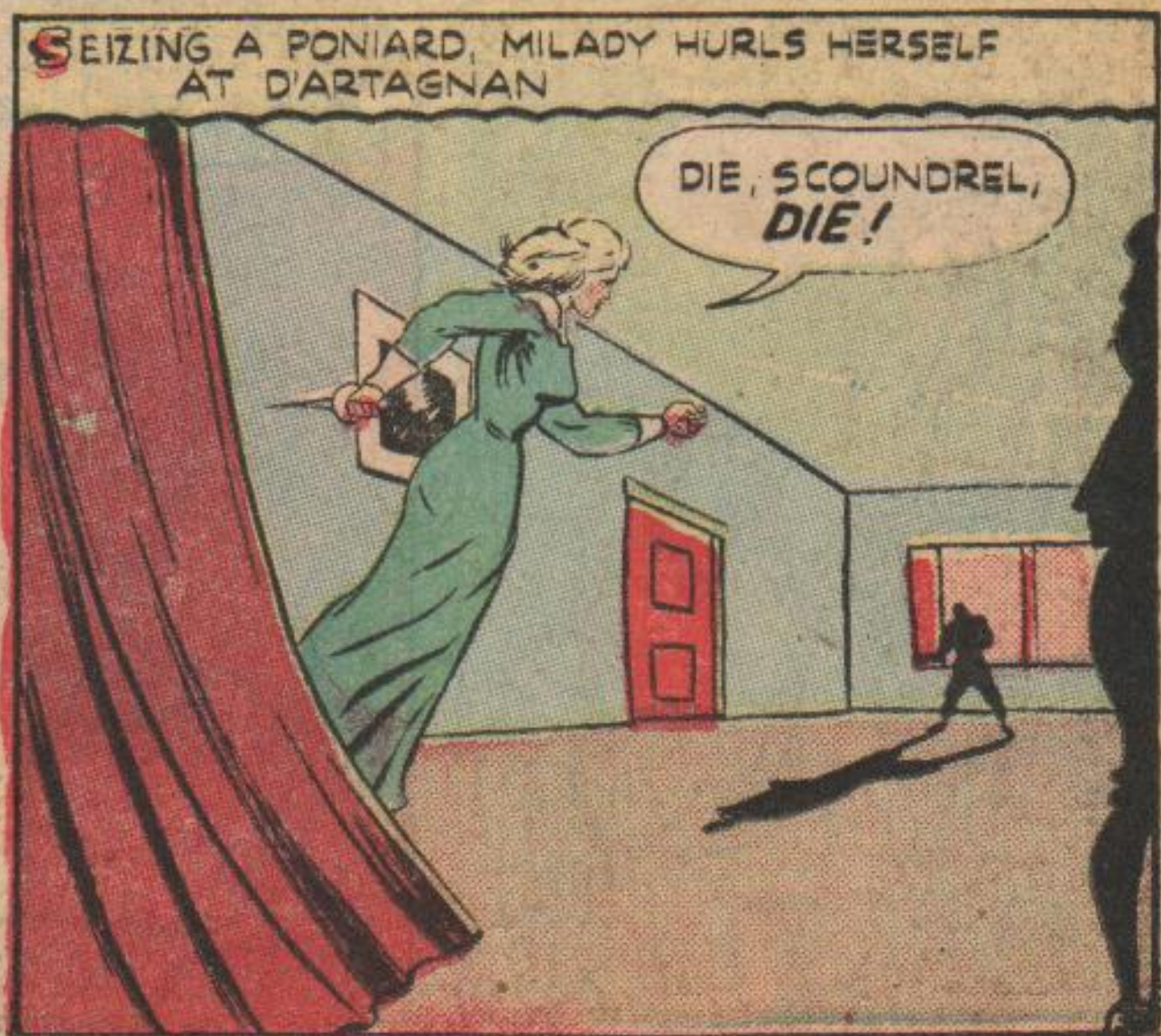
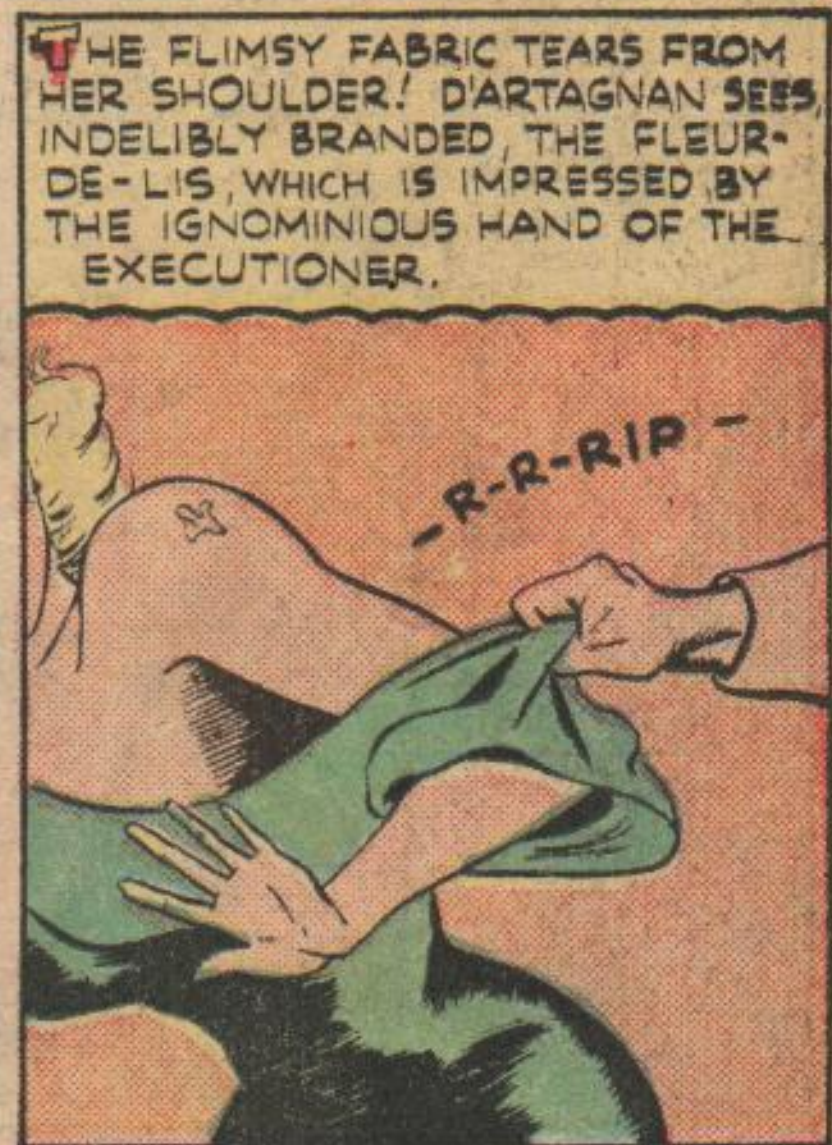
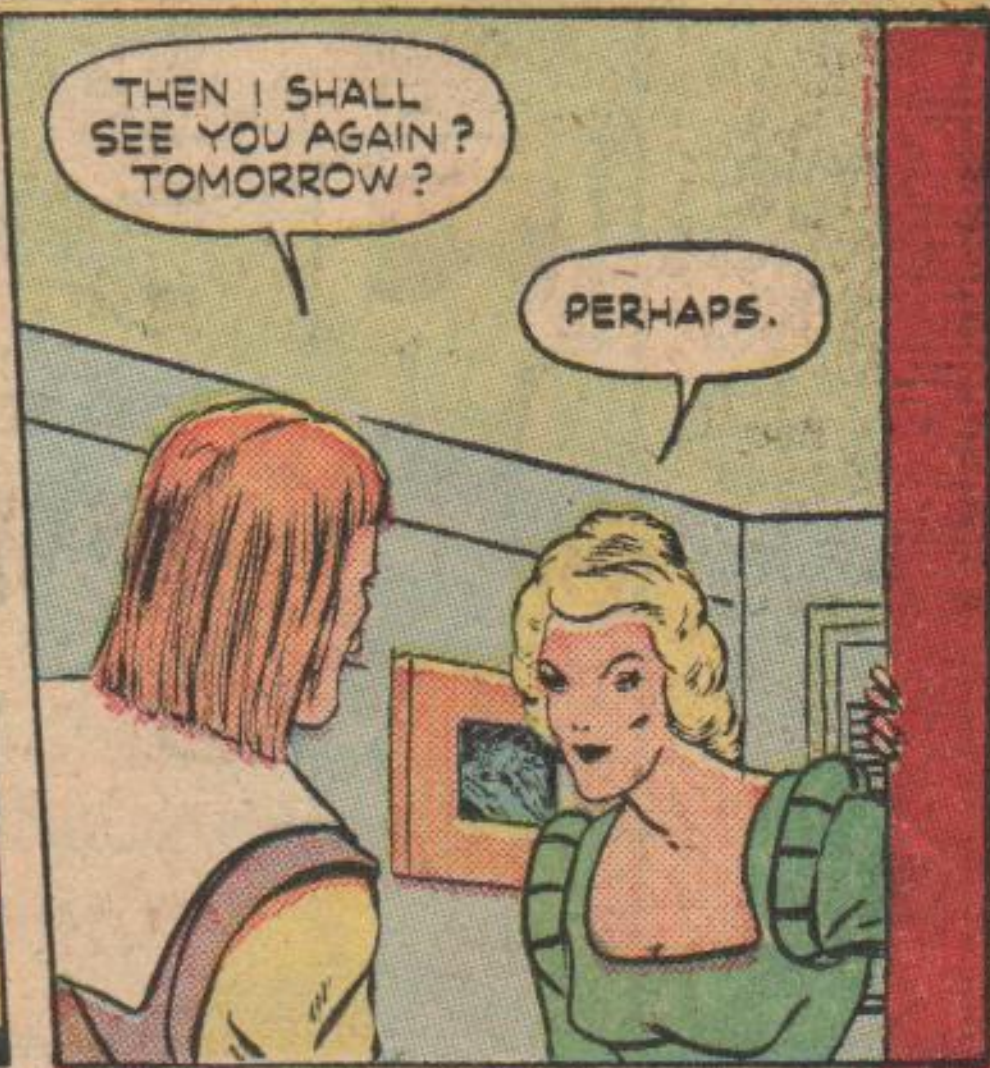
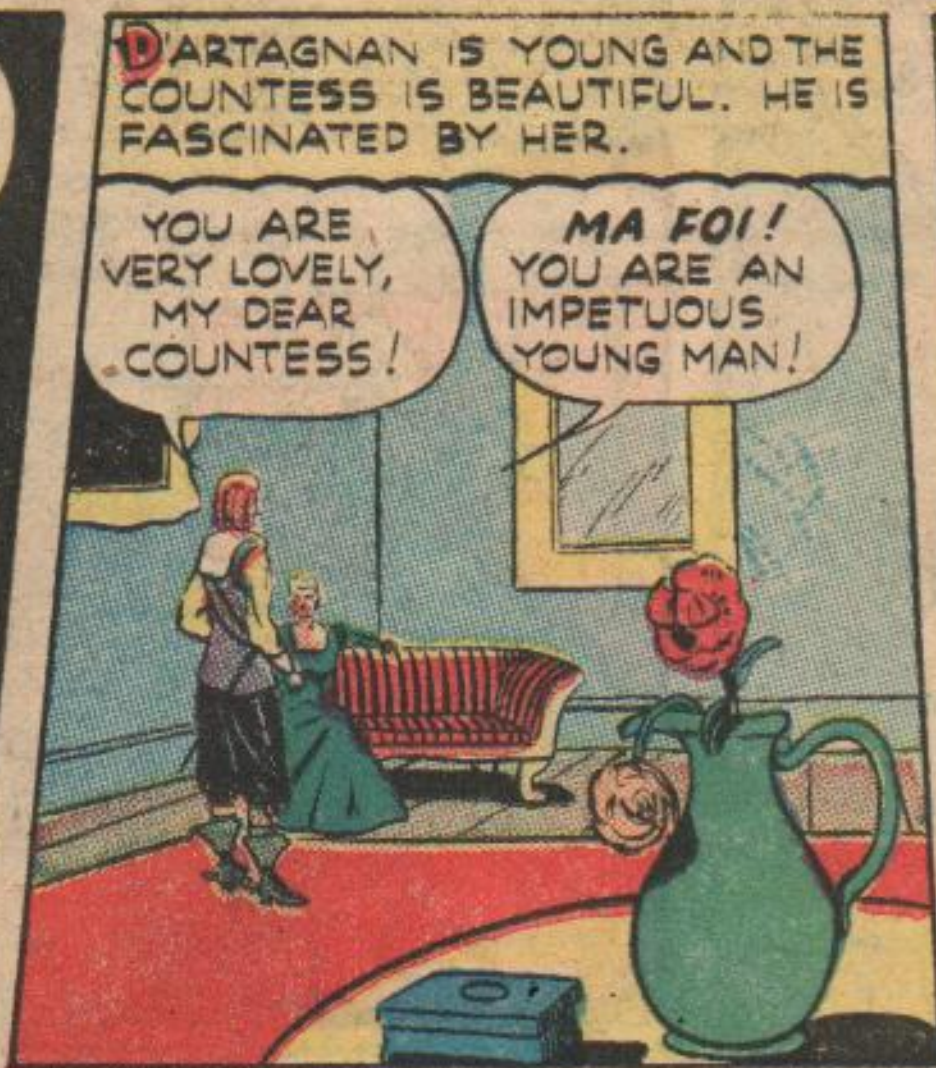

ATHOS PLAYS WITH FINESSE AND SOON STRETCHES HIS OPPONENT ON THE GRASS.





D'ARTAGNAN, ANXIOUS TO DISCOVER MILADY'S CONNECTION WITH THE MAN OF MEUNG, ACCEPTS.







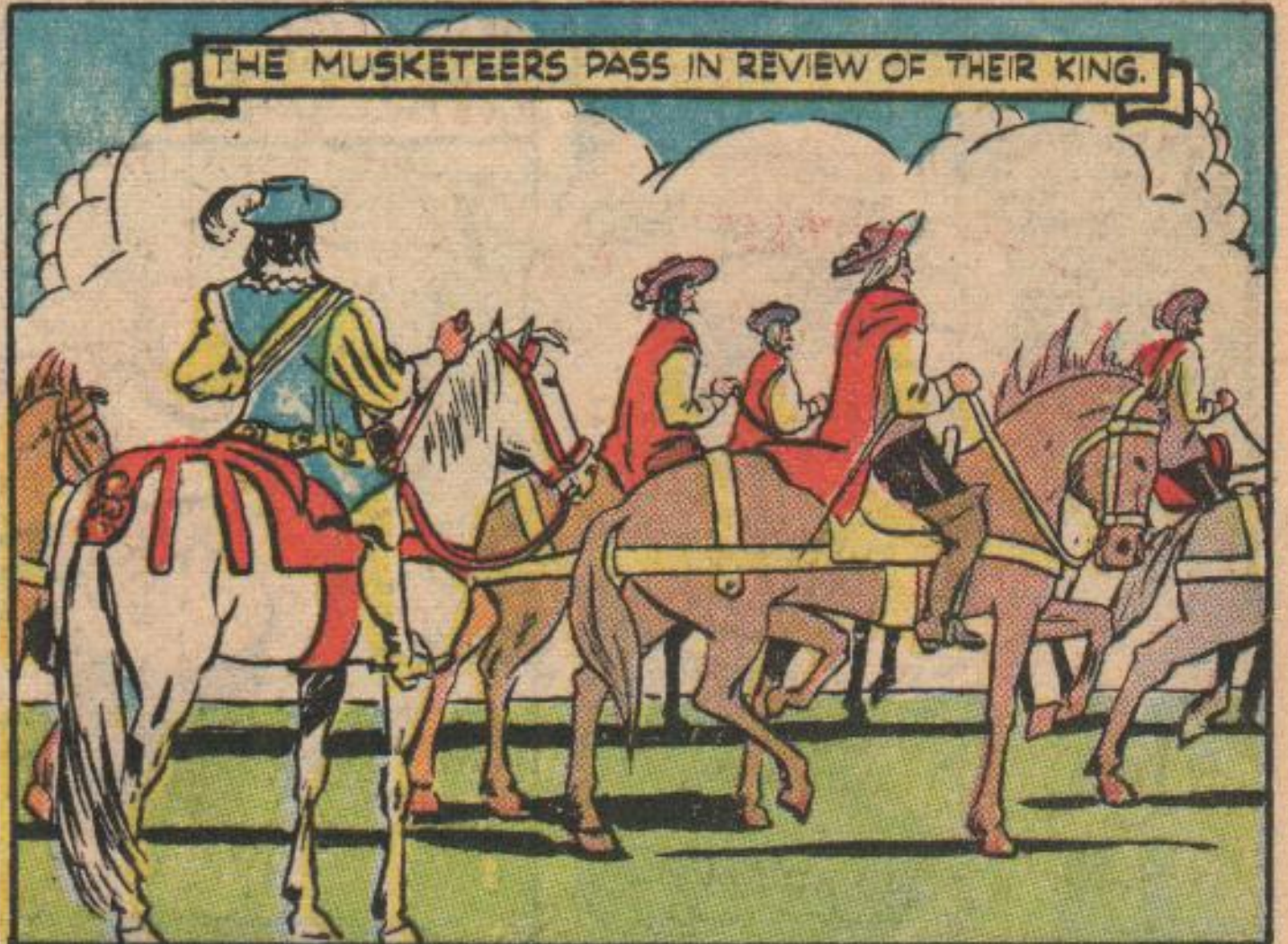




THE FOUR FRIENDS GATHER THEIR EQUIPMENT, AND, FOLLOWED BY THEIR LACKEYS, JOIN THEIR COMPANIES



THE MUSKETEERS PASS IN REVIEW OF THEIR KING.



D'ARTAGNAN DOES NOT OBSERVE MILADY, WHO, STANDING ON THE SIDELINES, POINTS HIM OUT TO TWO EVIL-LOOKING MEN.

THAT IS HE!



THE TWO MEN MOUNT HORSES AND FOLLOW THE SOLDIERS.



THAT EVENING, THE SOLDIERS ESTABLISH CAMP BEFORE LA ROCHELLE.



D'ARTAGNAN, THINKING OF MADAME BONACIEUX, WALKS OFF ALONE ALONG A LITTLE ROAD.



D'ARTAGNAN'S REVERIES ARE CUT SHORT BY THE GLITTER OF A MUSKET BARREL CONCEALED BEHIND A HEDGE.



DIRECTING HIS COURSE AWAY FROM THAT HEDGE, HE SEES THE EXTREMITY OF ANOTHER MUSKET ON THE OTHER SIDE.



AN AMBUSCADE!



# CLASSICS Illustrated

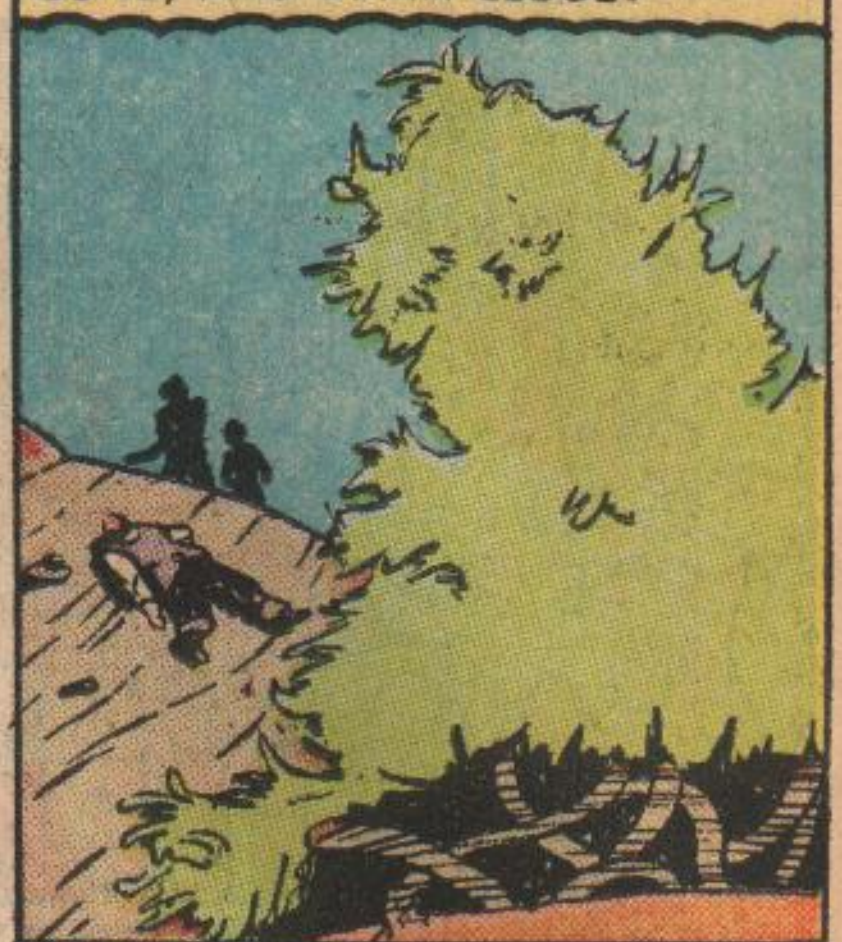
TWO BALLS WHISTLE BY, KNOCKING OFF HIS HAT.



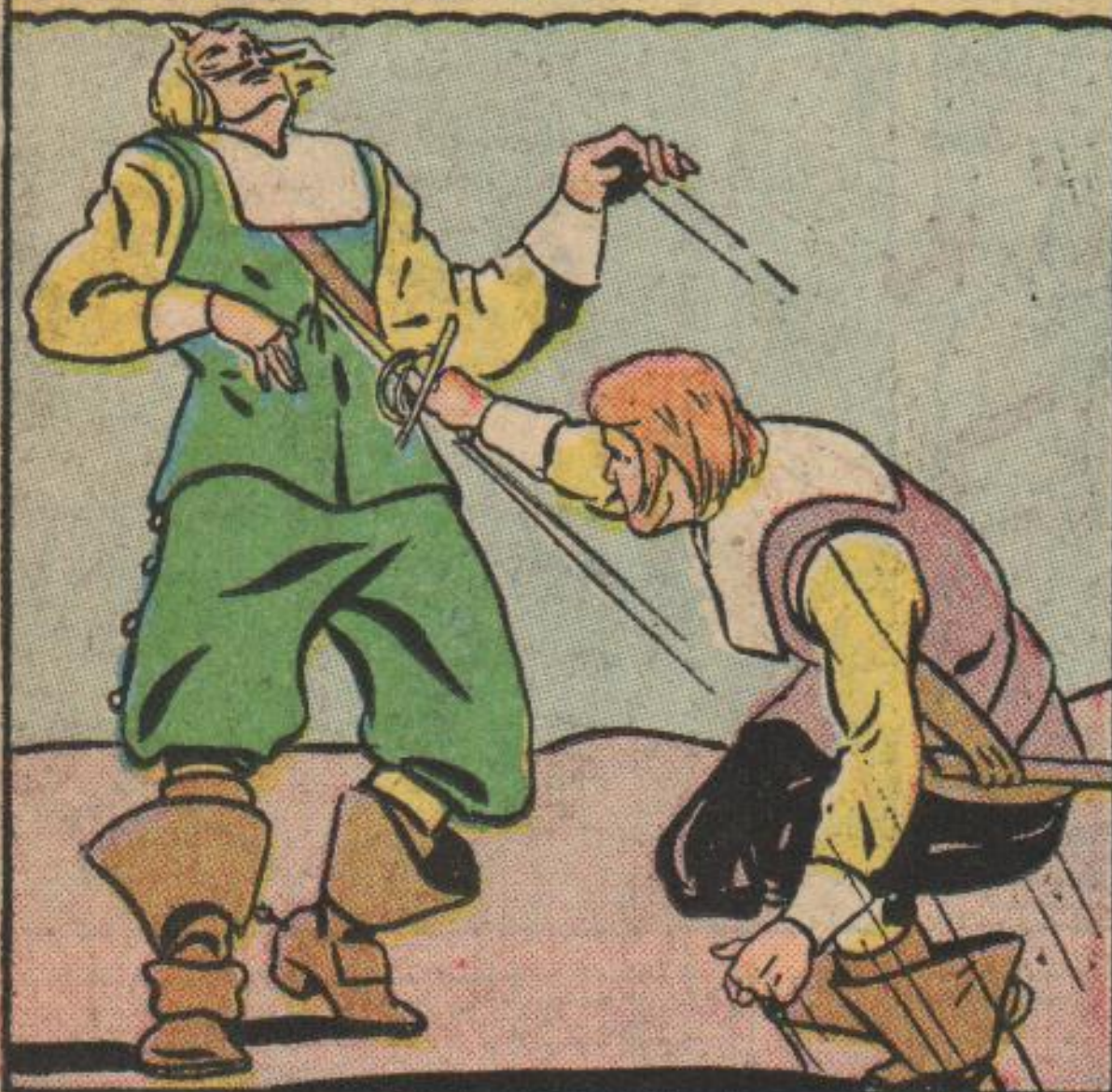
D'ARTAGNAN IS TRAPPED! HE DROPS TO THE GROUND AS THOUGH DEAD!



THE ASSASSINS, DECEIVED BY THE TRICK, NEGLECT TO RELOAD THEIR GUNS, AND DRAW CLOSE.



D'ARTAGNAN SPRINGS UP AND KILLS THE NEARER MAN WITH HIS SWORD!



THE OTHER TAKES HIS GUN BY THE BARREL AND AIMS A TERRIBLE BLOW AT D'ARTAGNAN, WHO SPRINGS ASIDE AND THEN RUNS HIM THROUGH!



D'ARTAGNAN SEARCHES THE LIFELESS MAN AND FINDS A LETTER.



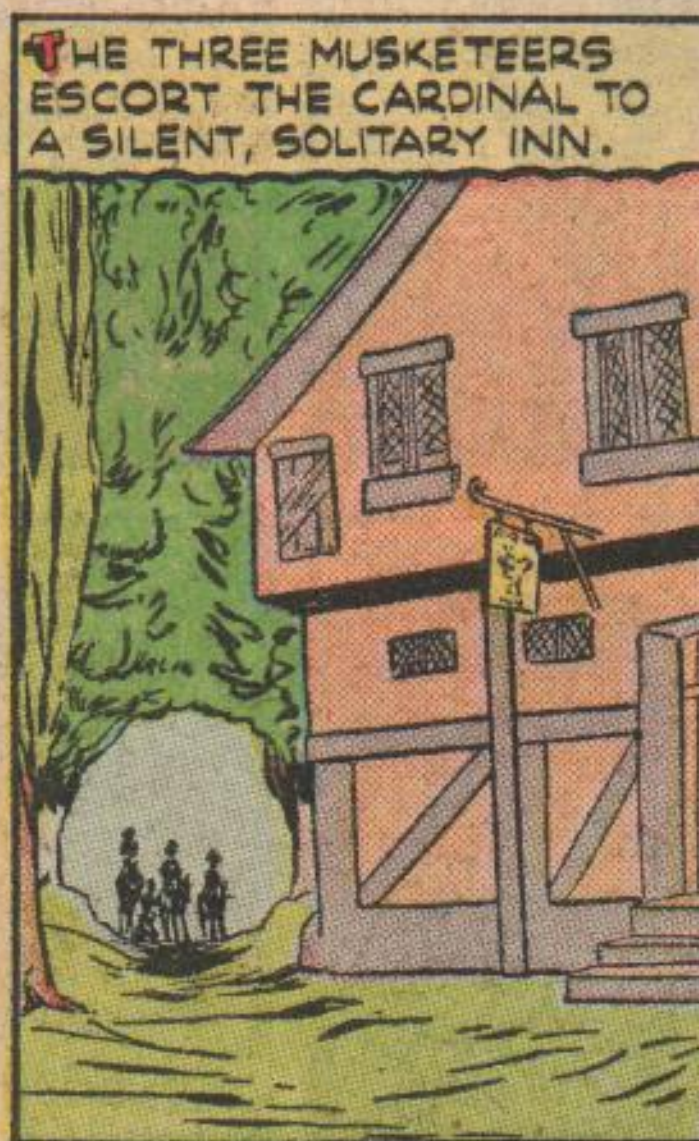
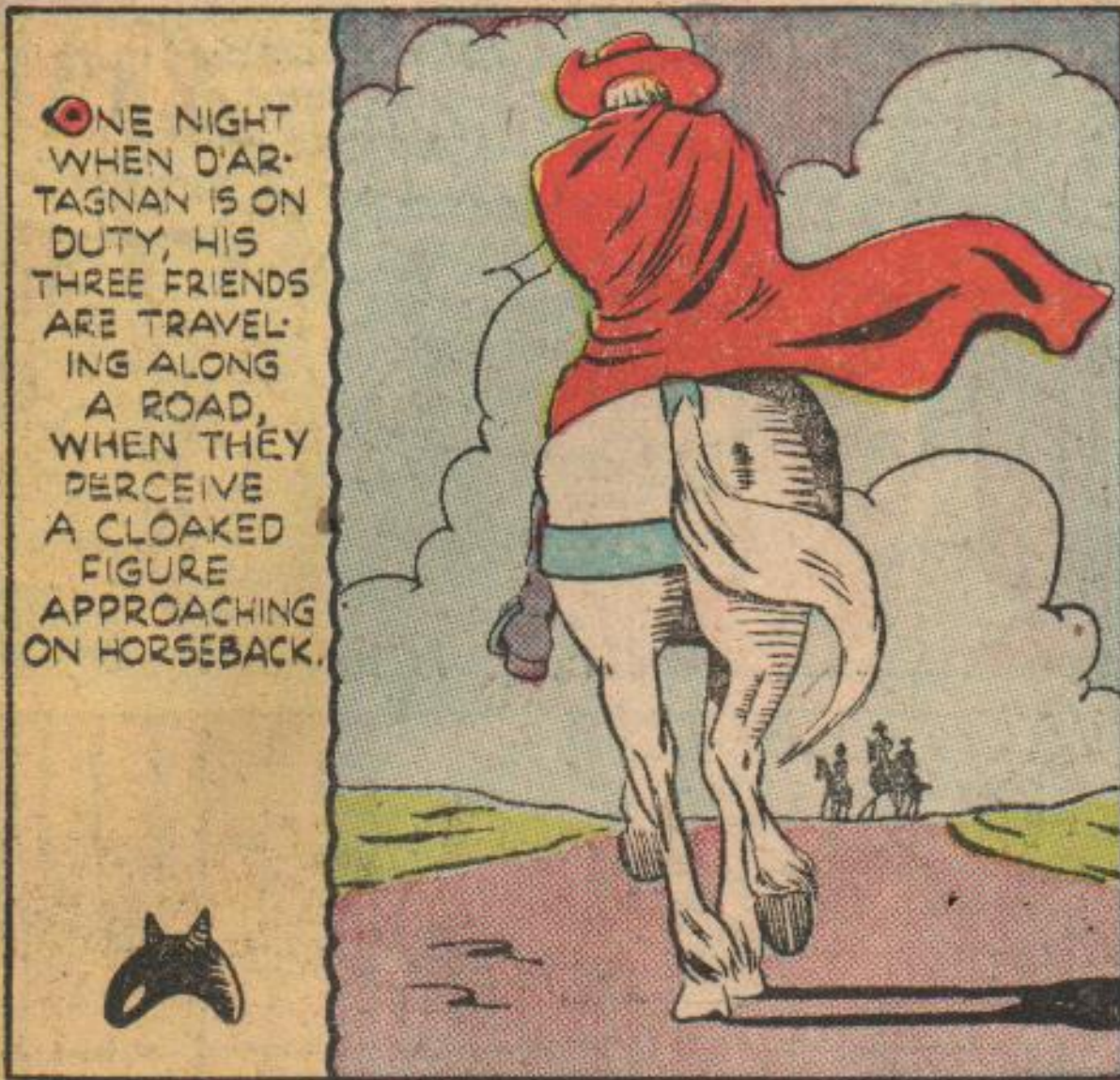
HE READS:

Since you have allowed the Bonacieux woman to escape to the convent of the Carmelites, do not fail to kill the man.

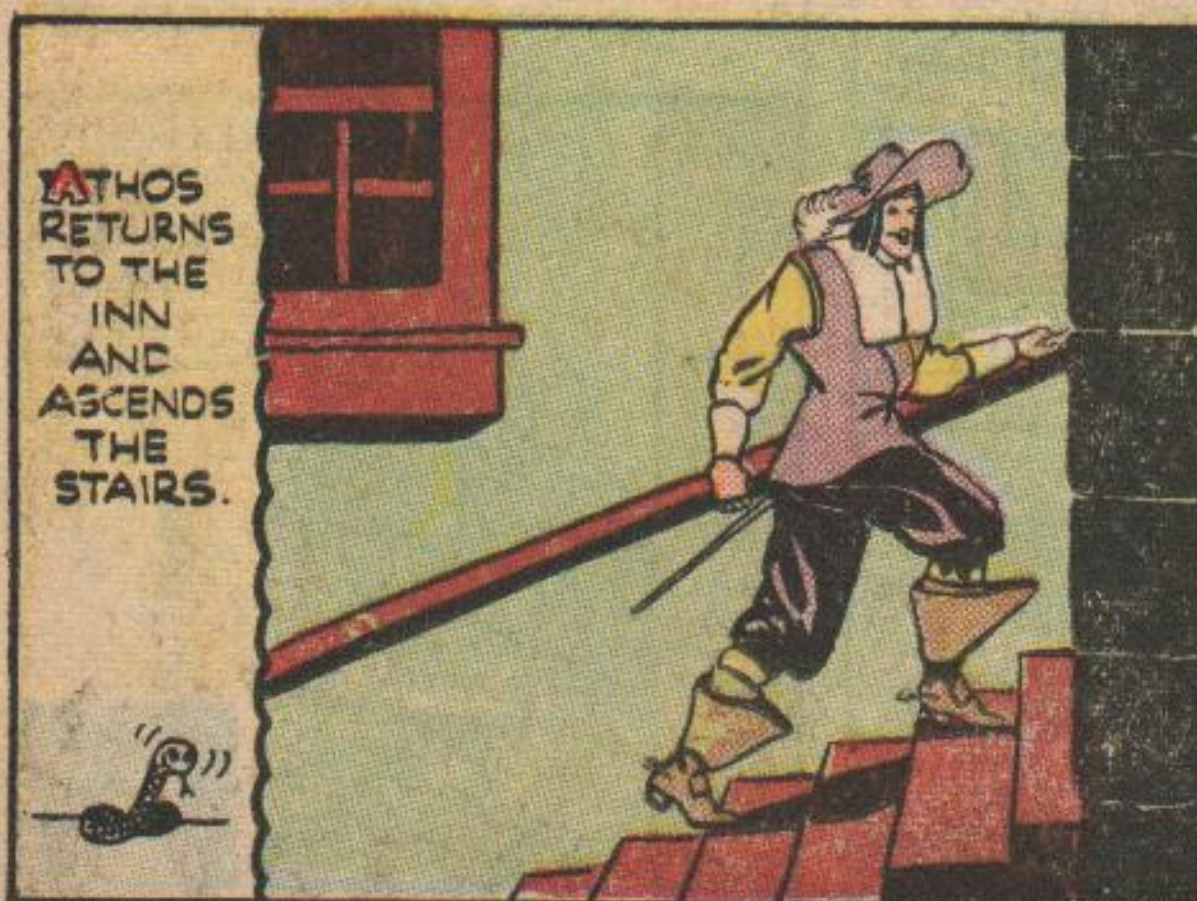
AH! MADAME BONACIEUX IS SAFE AND MILADY HAS FAILED AGAIN!













# CLASSICS Illustrated

ATHOS OPENS HIS CLOAK AND LIFTS HIS HAT.

DO YOU KNOW ME, MADAME?

MILADY DRAWS BACK AS THOUGH SHE HAD SEEN A SERPENT.

THE COUNT DE LA FERRE!

YES, MILADY, THE COUNT DE LA FERRE, YOUR HUSBAND!

ATHOS SLOWLY RAISES HIS PISTOL TO MILADY'S HEAD.

MADAME, YOU WILL THIS INSTANT DELIVER TO ME THE PAPER THE CARDINAL SIGNED; OR, UPON MY SOUL, I SHALL BLOW OUT YOUR BRAINS.

MILADY REACHES HER HAND TO HER BOSOM AND DRAWS OUT THE PAPER.

TAKE IT, AND BE ACCURSED!

ATHOS READS

*It is by my order, and for the good of the state, that the bearer of this has done what he has done.*

DEC. 3, 1627 Richelieu

—AND NOW THAT I HAVE DRAWN YOUR TEETH, VIPER, BITE IF YOU CAN!

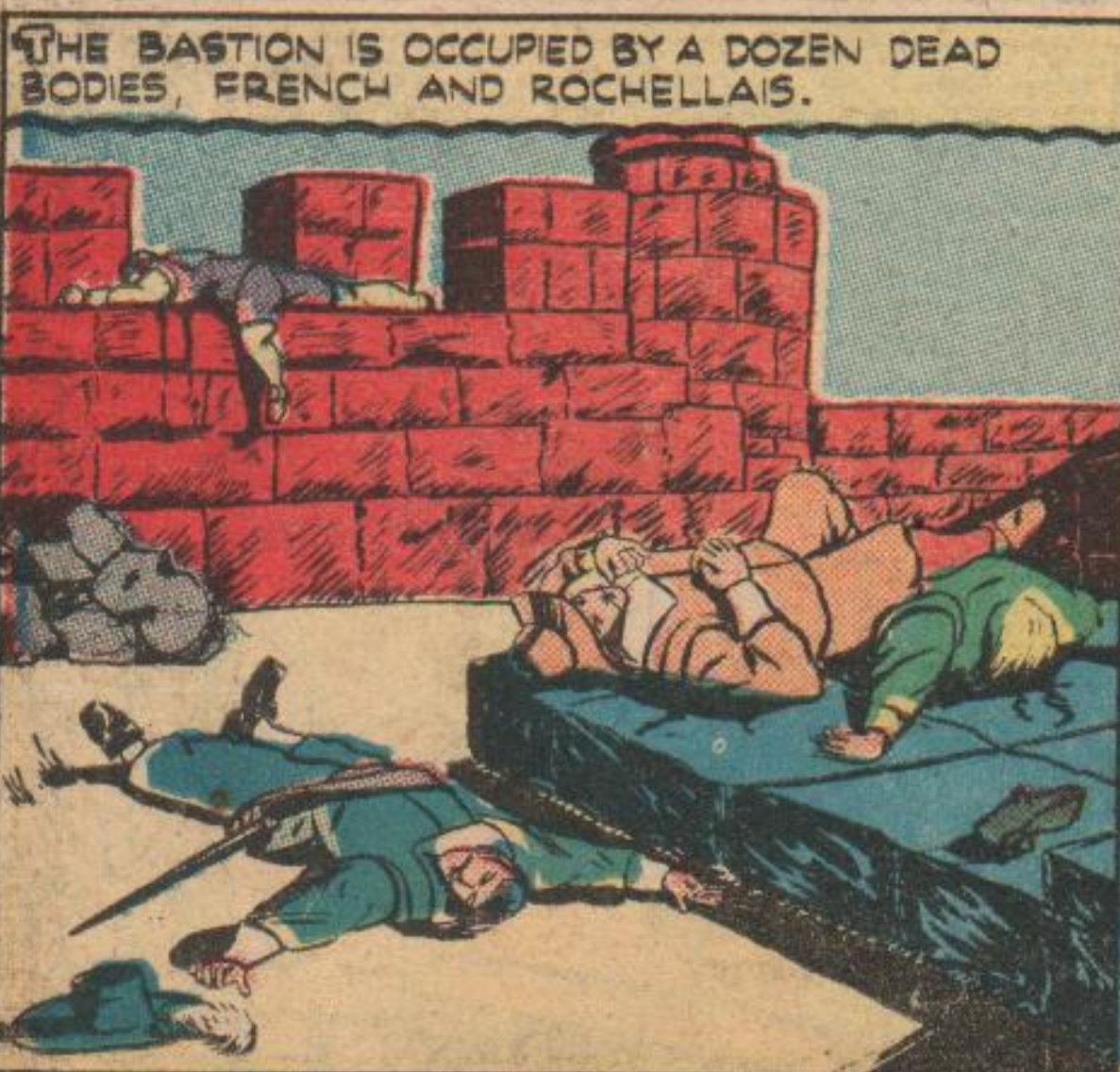
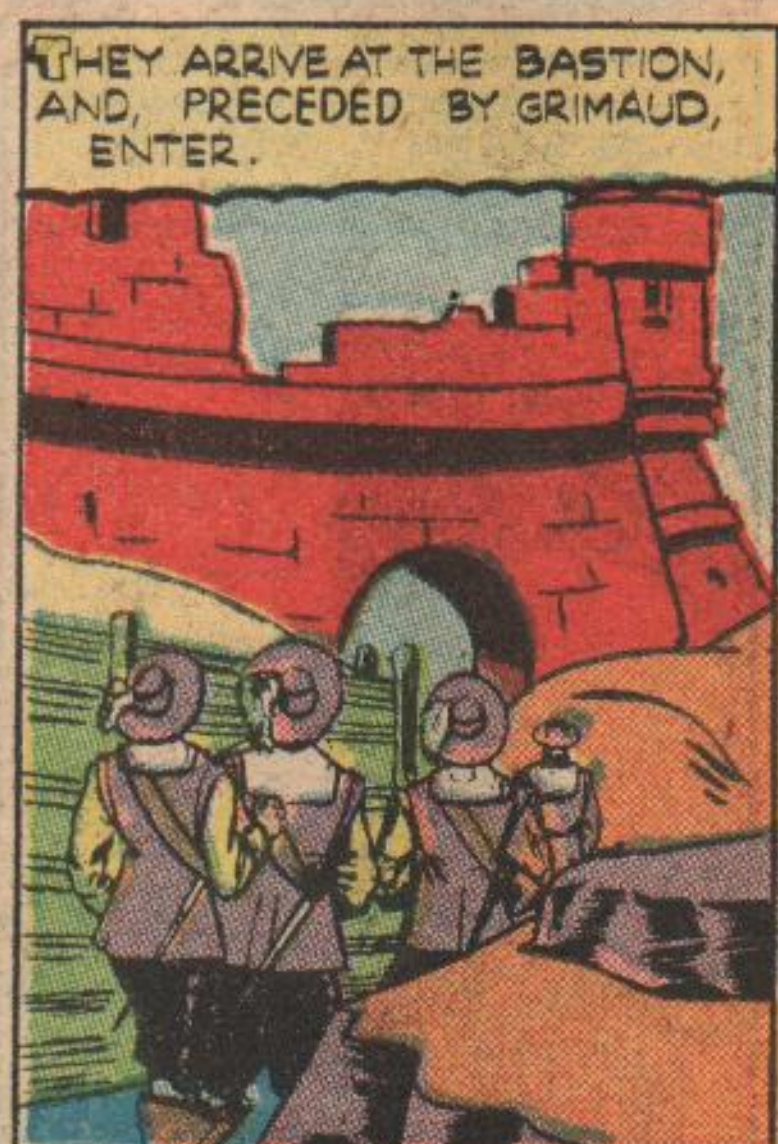
ATHOS LEAVES MILADY AND RIDES FURIOUSLY TO HIS QUARTERS.

THE NEXT MORNING, ATHOS HOLDS A COUNCIL OF WAR.

GENTLEMEN, WE MUST GO WHERE WE CAN TALK IN PRIVACY.

THEY ALL GO TO A SMALL HOTEL, BUT THE HOUR IS POORLY CHOSEN. THE PLACE IS FULL OF SOLDIERS.





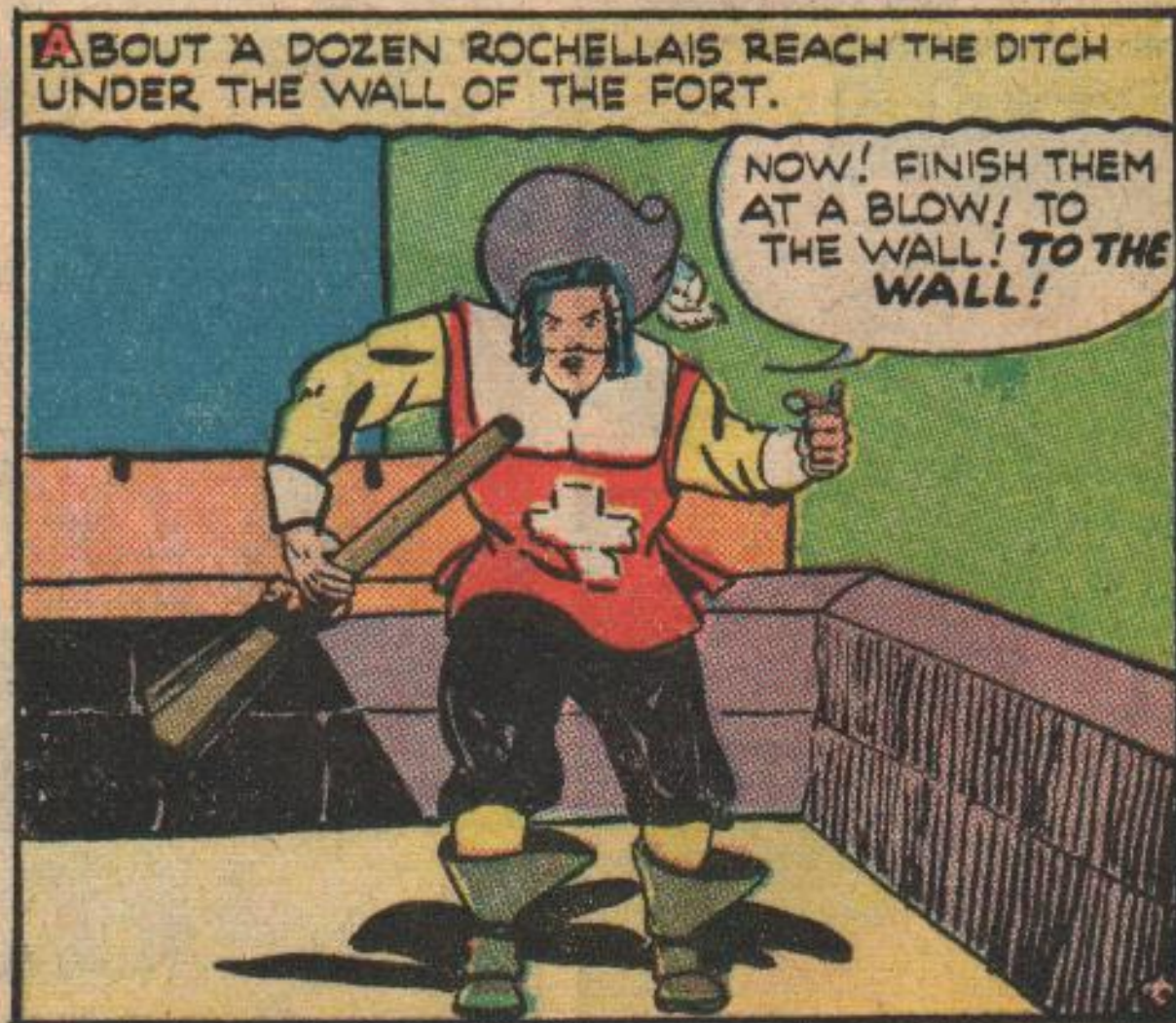
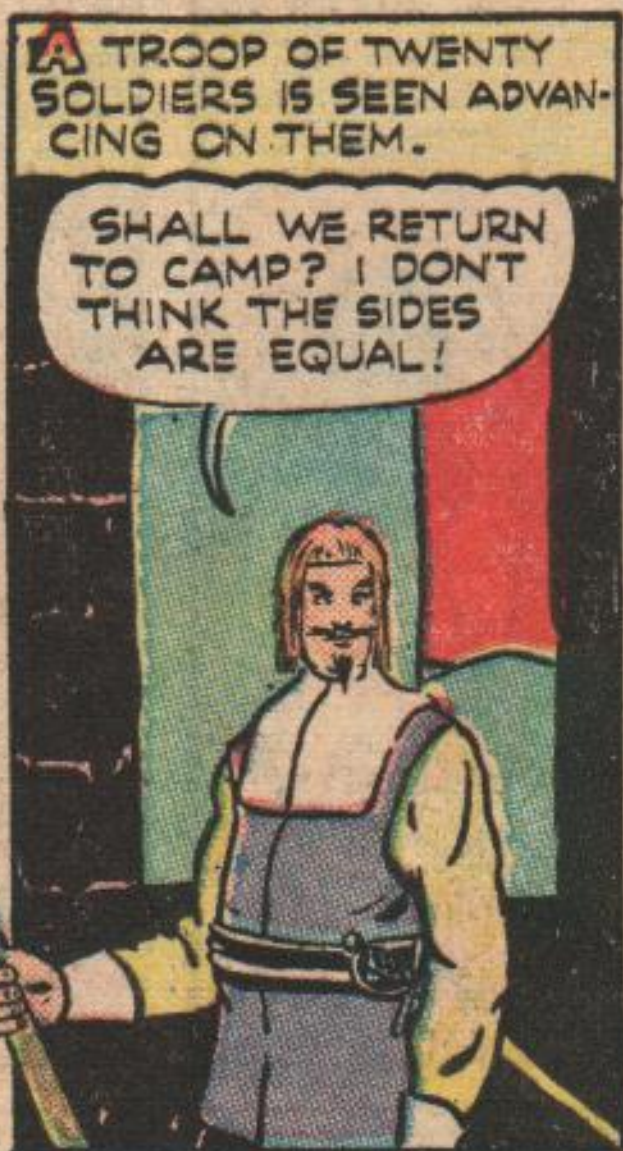


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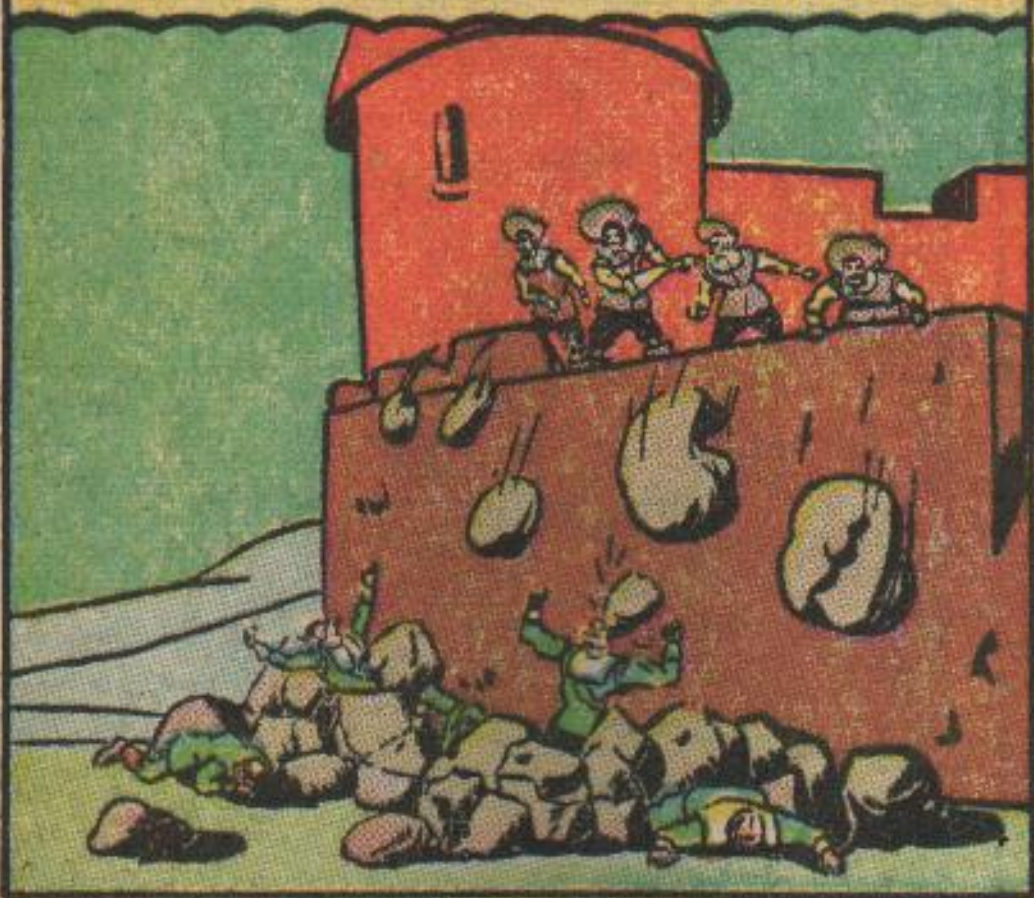


# CLASSICS Illustrated





THE FOUR MUSKETEERS, AIDED BY GRIMAUD, PUSH THE WALL WITH THEIR GUN BARRELS. IT SWAYS, THEN TOPPLES INTO THE DITCH.



MA TOI! WE HAVE DESTROYED THEM ALL!

IT APPEARS SO. NOW LET US RESUME OUR CONVERSATION!



THEY SIT DOWN AGAIN TO BREAKFAST.

WE MUST WARN LORD DE WINTER OF MILADY'S INTENTIONS.



BUT HOW?

I WILL SEND PLANCHET TO LONDON WITH A LETTER!



WHAT IS THAT NOISE?

WHY, THEY ARE SENDING A WHOLE REGIMENT AGAINST US. WE SHALL BE KILLED!



ATHOS POINTS TO THE DEAD SOLDIERS .....

GRIMAUD, TAKE THESE GENTLEMEN, SET THEM UP AGAINST THE WALL AND PUT GUNS IN THEIR HANDS!



QUICKLY! DID YOU TALK OF A REGIMENT, PORTHOS? IT IS AN ARMY!



THE BODIES ARE SET AGAINST THE LOOPHOLES, WITH THE GUNS POINTING OUT.

NOW, GENTLEMEN, LET US BE OFF!





A FURIOUS VOLLEY IS HEARD.

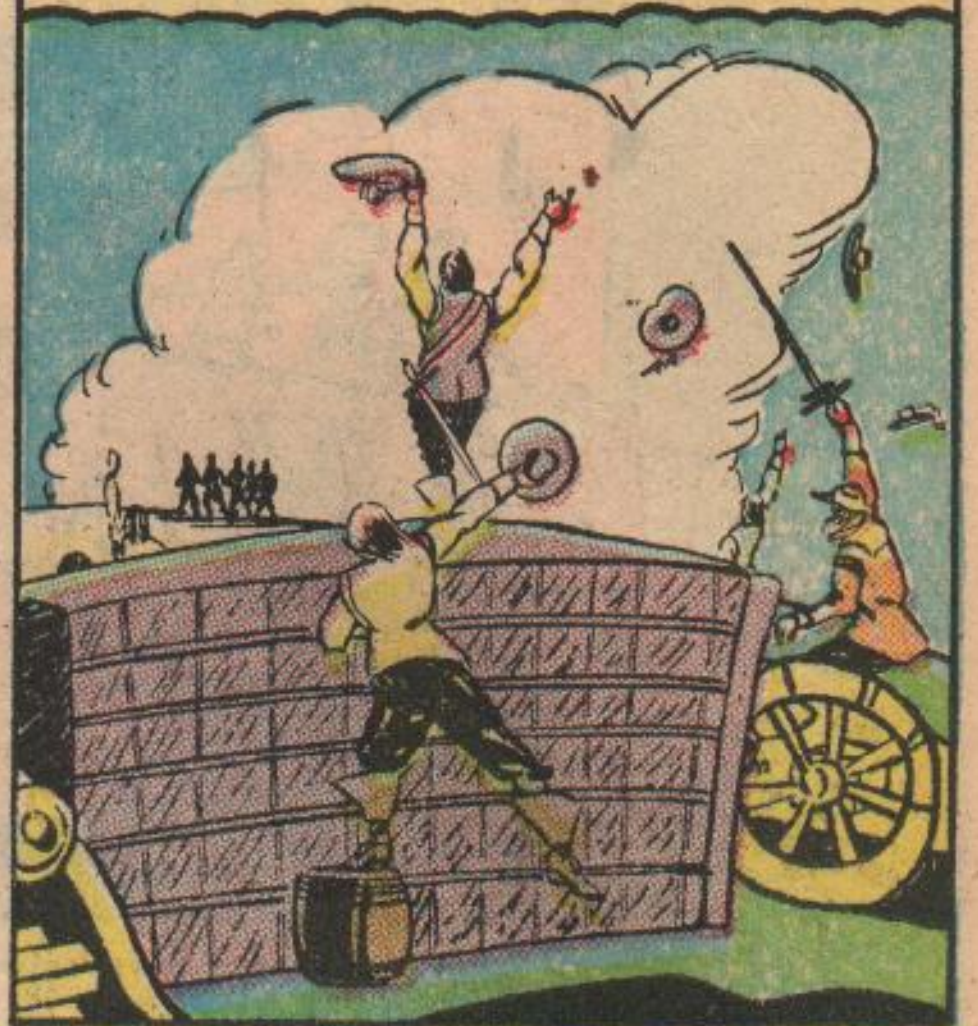
WHAT ARE THEY FIRING AT NOW? I HEAR NO BALLS WHISTLING BY!



THEY ARE FIRING AT GRIMAUD'S DEAD COMPANY AND BY THE TIME THEY FIND OUT THE TRICK, WE SHALL BE SAFELY BACK.



THE FRENCH, ON SEEING THEIR COMRADES RETURN, CHEER WILDLY.



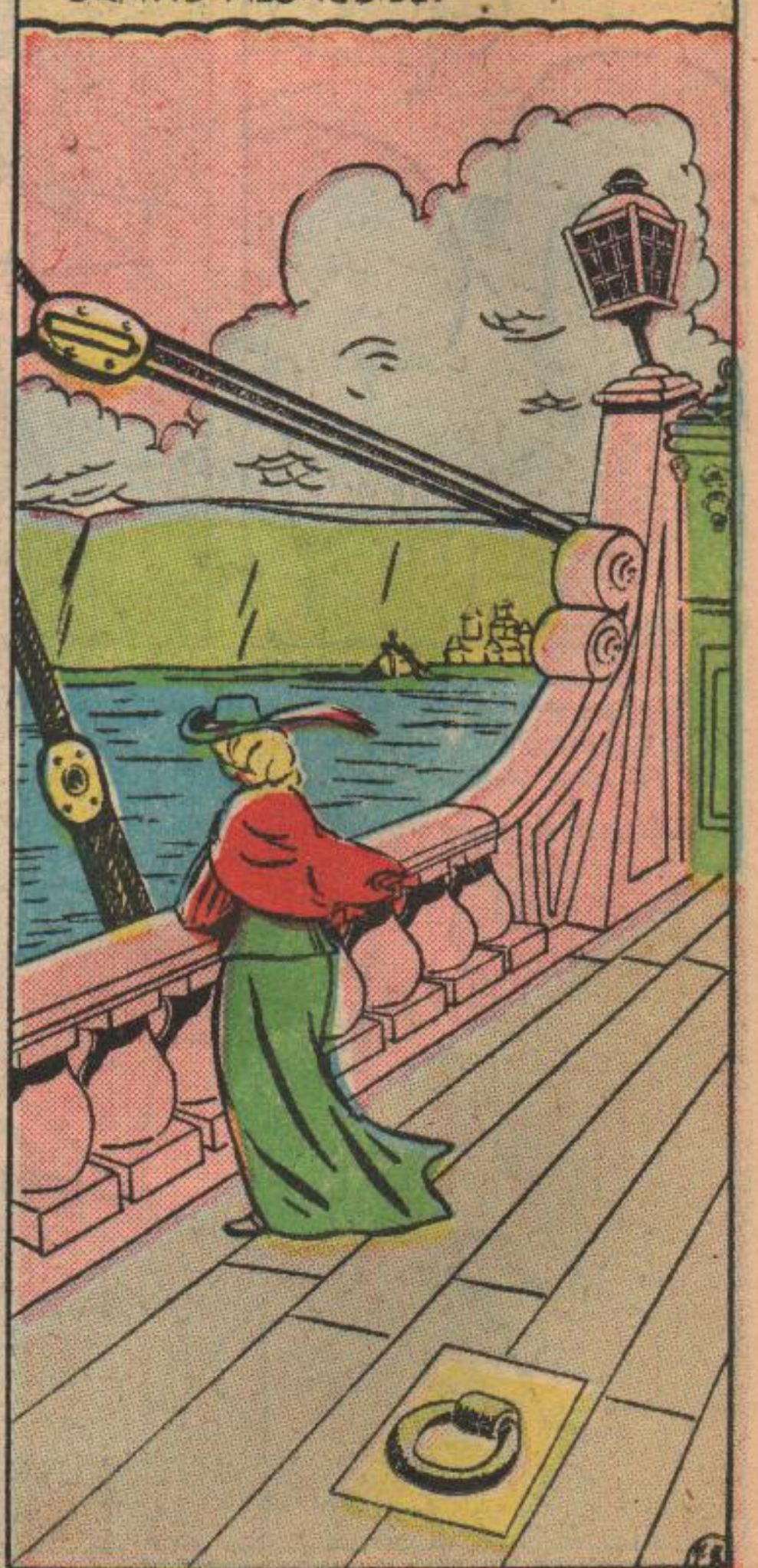
THAT NIGHT, PLANCHET SETS OUT FOR LONDON WITH A LETTER TO DE WINTER.



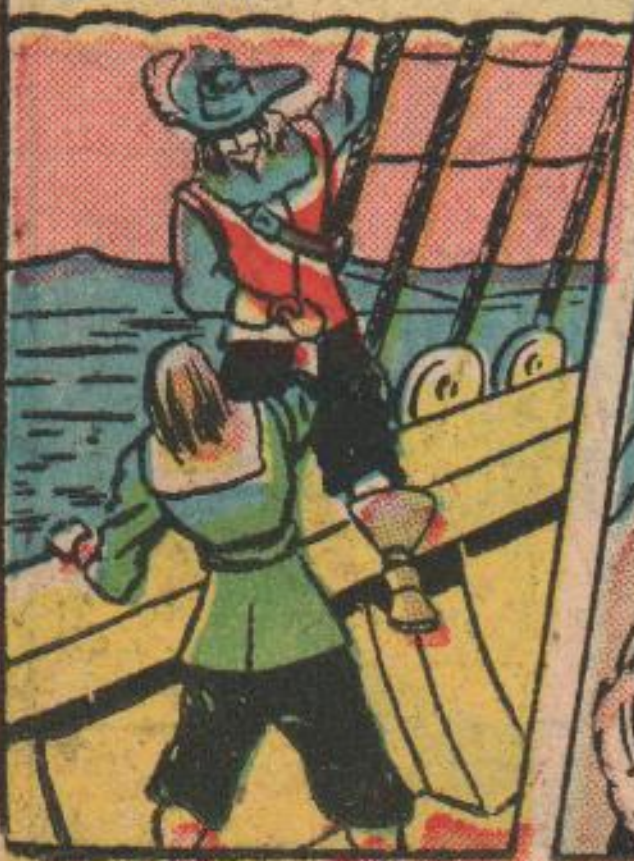
AFTER SIXTEEN DAYS, PLANCHET RETURNS WITH A NOTE FROM DE WINTER. IT READS, "THANK YOU. BE EASY!"



MEANWHILE, MILADY, ABOARD A SLOOP, ARRIVES AT THE ENGLISH PORT OF PORTSMOUTH. A LITTLE CUTTER DRAWS ALONGSIDE.

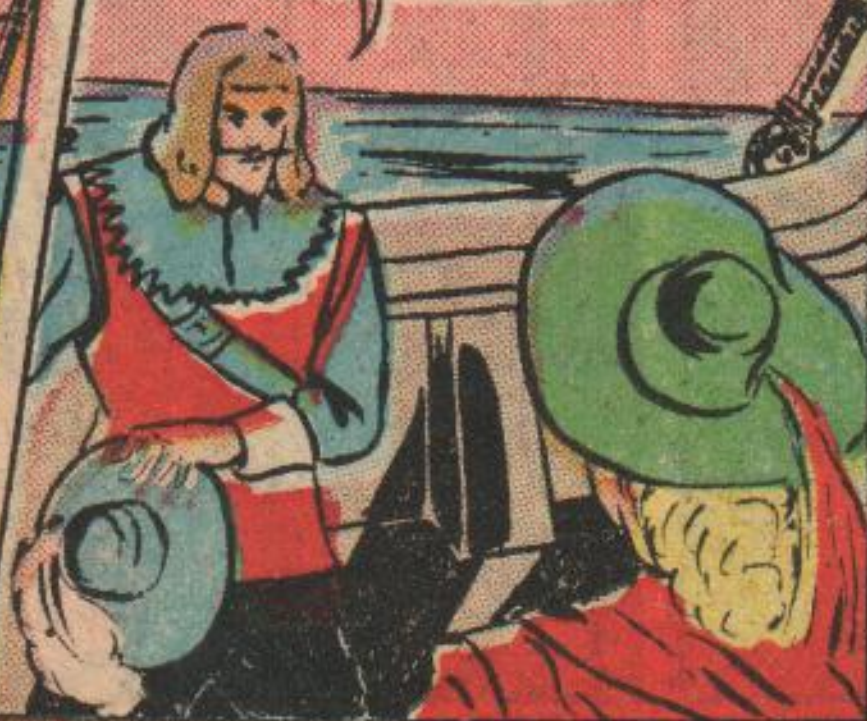


AN OFFICER FROM THE CUTTER BOARDS THE VESSEL AND TALKS TO THE CAPTAIN.



THE OFFICER APPROACHES MILADY.

I AM AN OFFICER IN THE ENGLISH NAVY. PLEASE COME WITH ME.





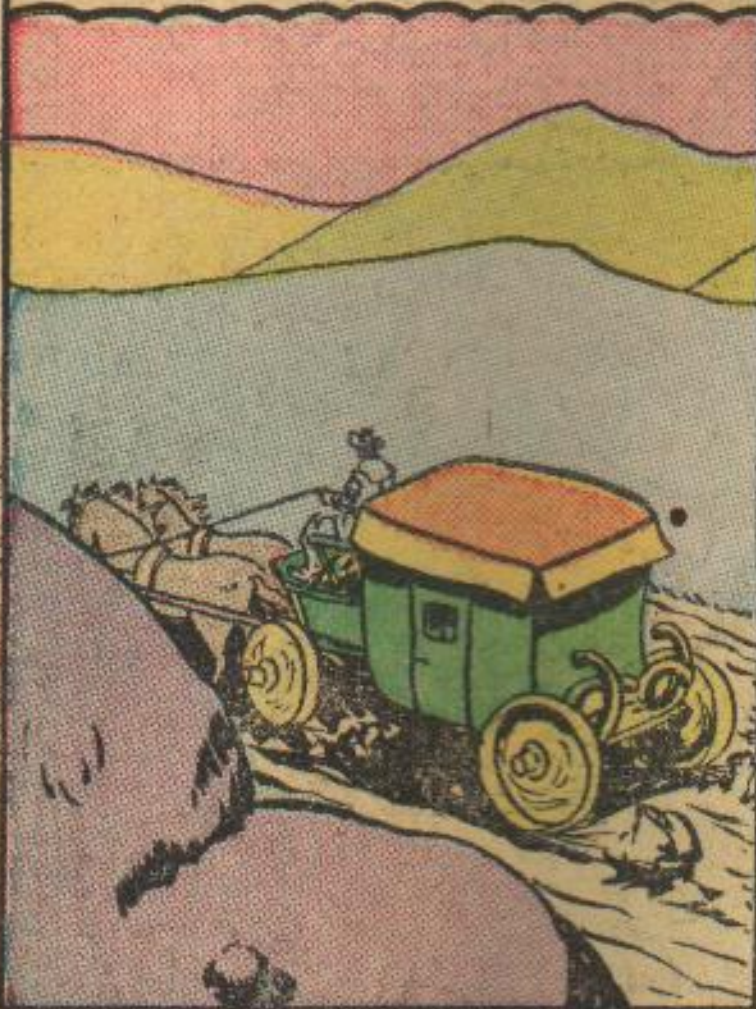
**M**ILADY IS TAKEN ABOARD THE CUTTER AND BROUGHT TO SHORE.



**T**HE OFFICER SPRINGS OUT AND HELPS MILADY ALIGHT. A CARRIAGE IS WAITING.



**T**HEY GET INTO THE CARRIAGE AND ARE DRIVEN AWAY.



**A**T LENGTH, THE CARRIAGE ENTERS THE COURTYARD OF AN OLD CASTLE PERCHED ON A CLIFF BY THE SEA.



**T**HE OFFICER HELPS MILADY FROM THE CARRIAGE.



**T**HE OFFICER LEADS MILADY INTO A CHAMBER WITH DOORS AND WINDOWS BARRED.



MY DUTY IS DONE. THE REST CONCERNS ANOTHER PERSON. HERE HE IS NOW.

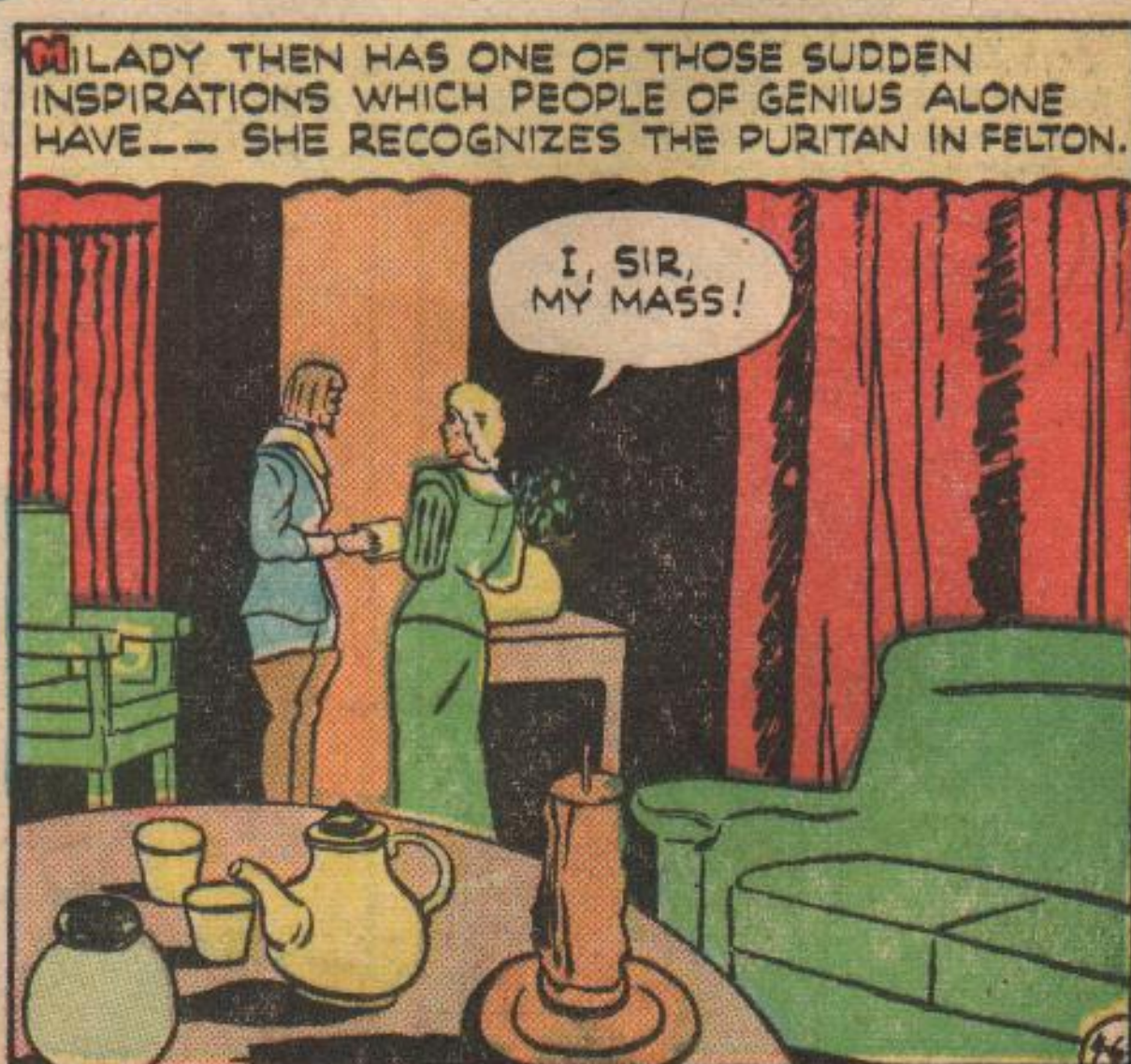


**L**ORD DE WINTER ENTERS.



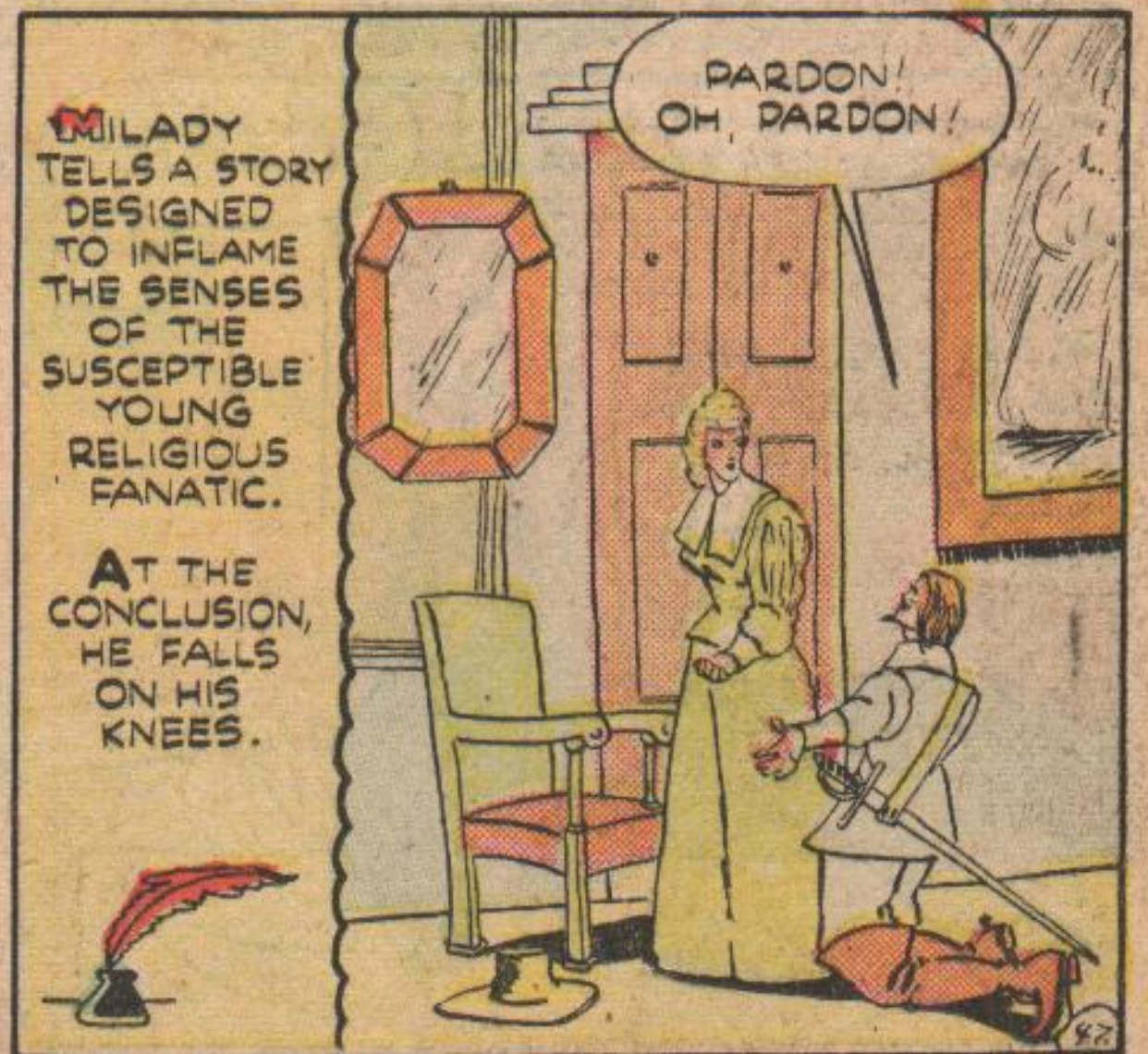


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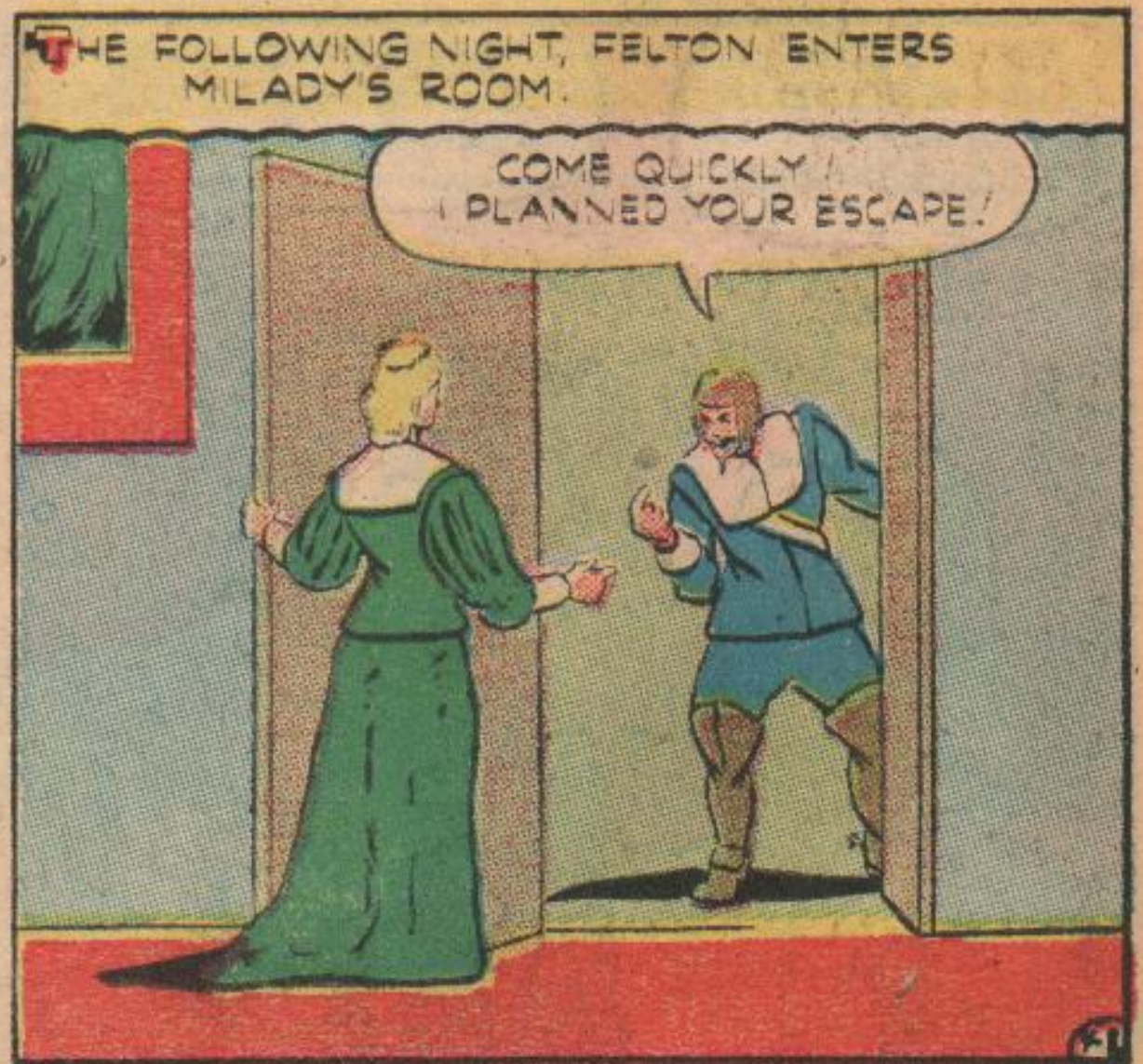




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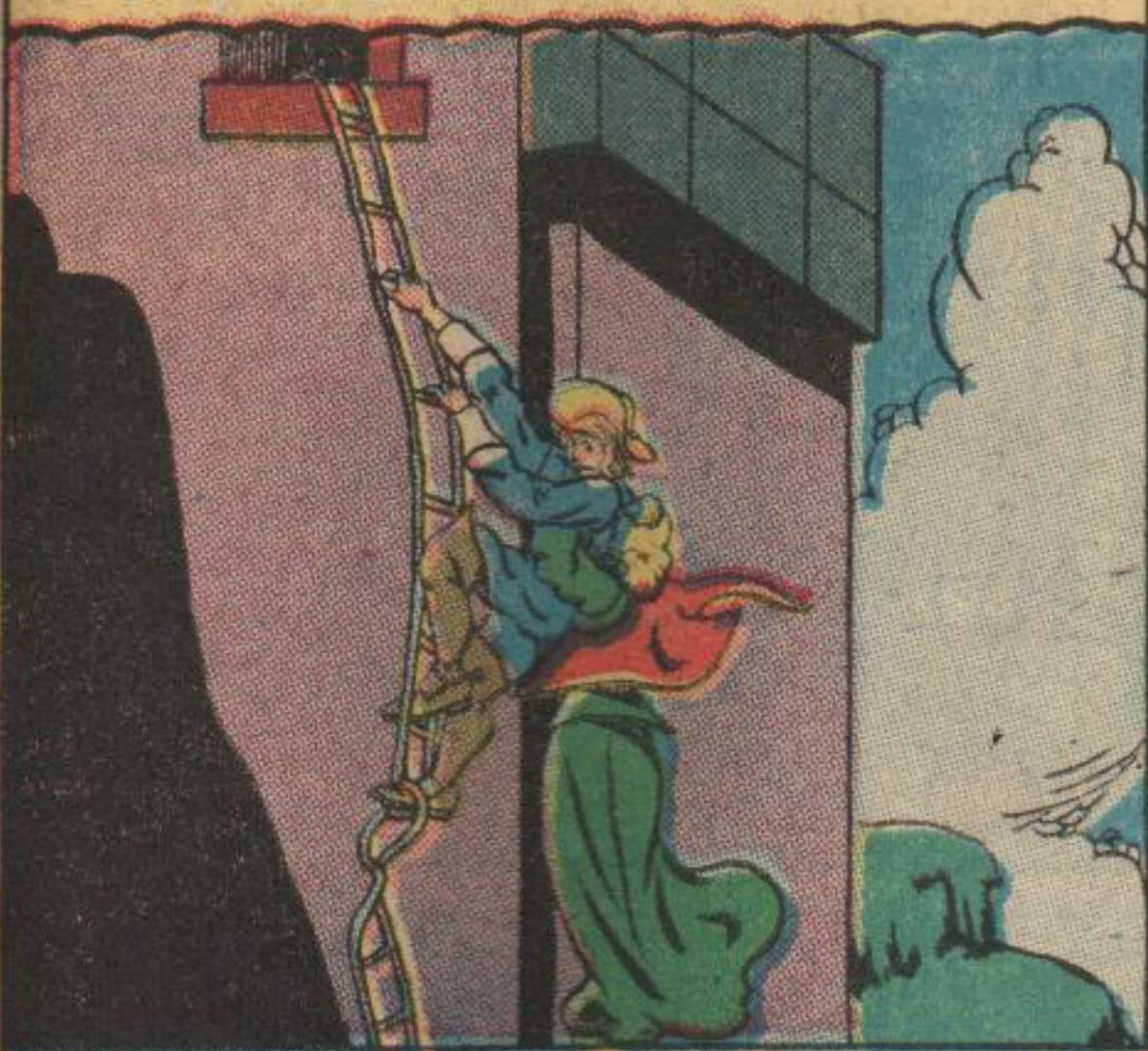






# CLASSICS Illustrated

**A**FTER PRYING LOOSE THE BARRED WINDOW, FELTON LETS HIMSELF AND MILADY DOWN A ROPE TO THE ROCKY SHORE BELOW.



**A**T FELTON'S WHISTLE, A BOAT APPEARS, ROWED BY FOUR MEN. MILADY AND FELTON GET IN.



**I**N A FEW MINUTES, THEY ARE ABOARD THE SLOOP.



WHAT ARE YOU TO DO IN PORTSMOUTH?



**W**HEN THE SLOOP REACHES PORTSMOUTH, FELTON BIDS ADIEU TO MILADY.



**F**ELTON DISEMBARKS AND GOES TO THE PALACE OF THE ADMIRALTY.



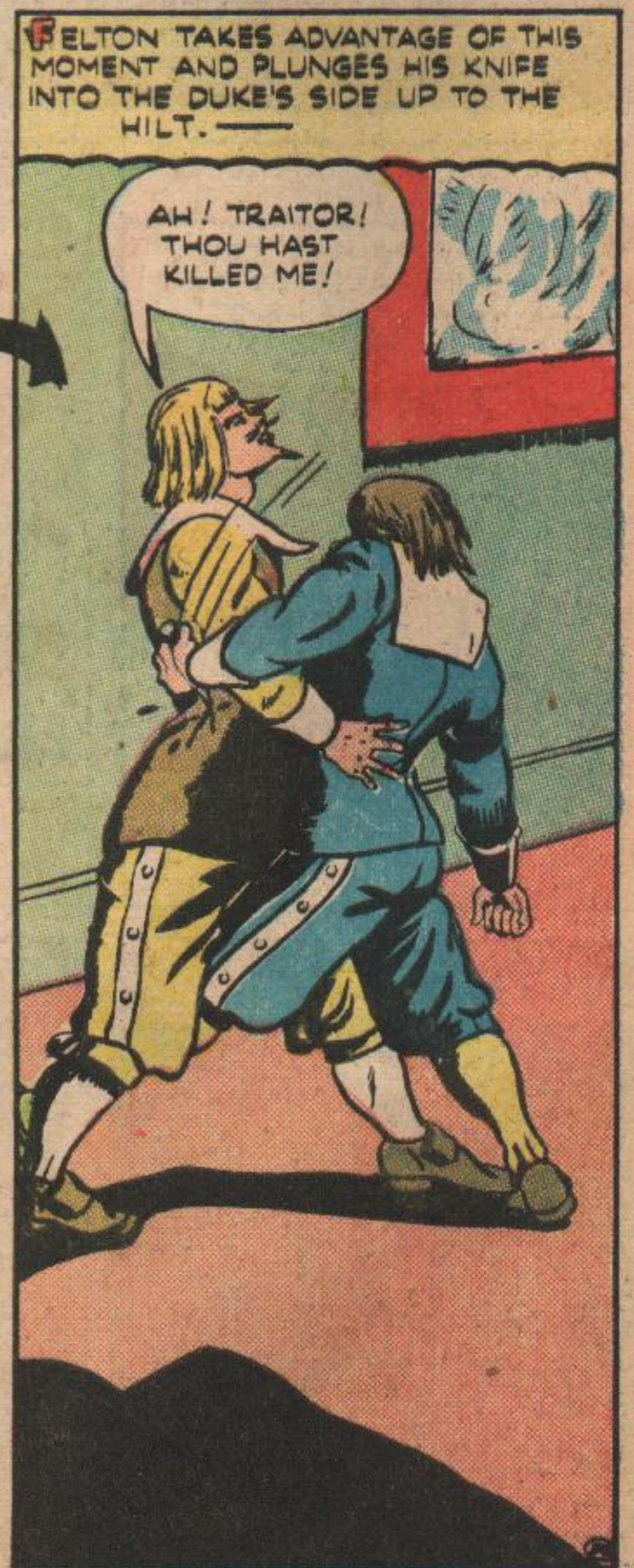
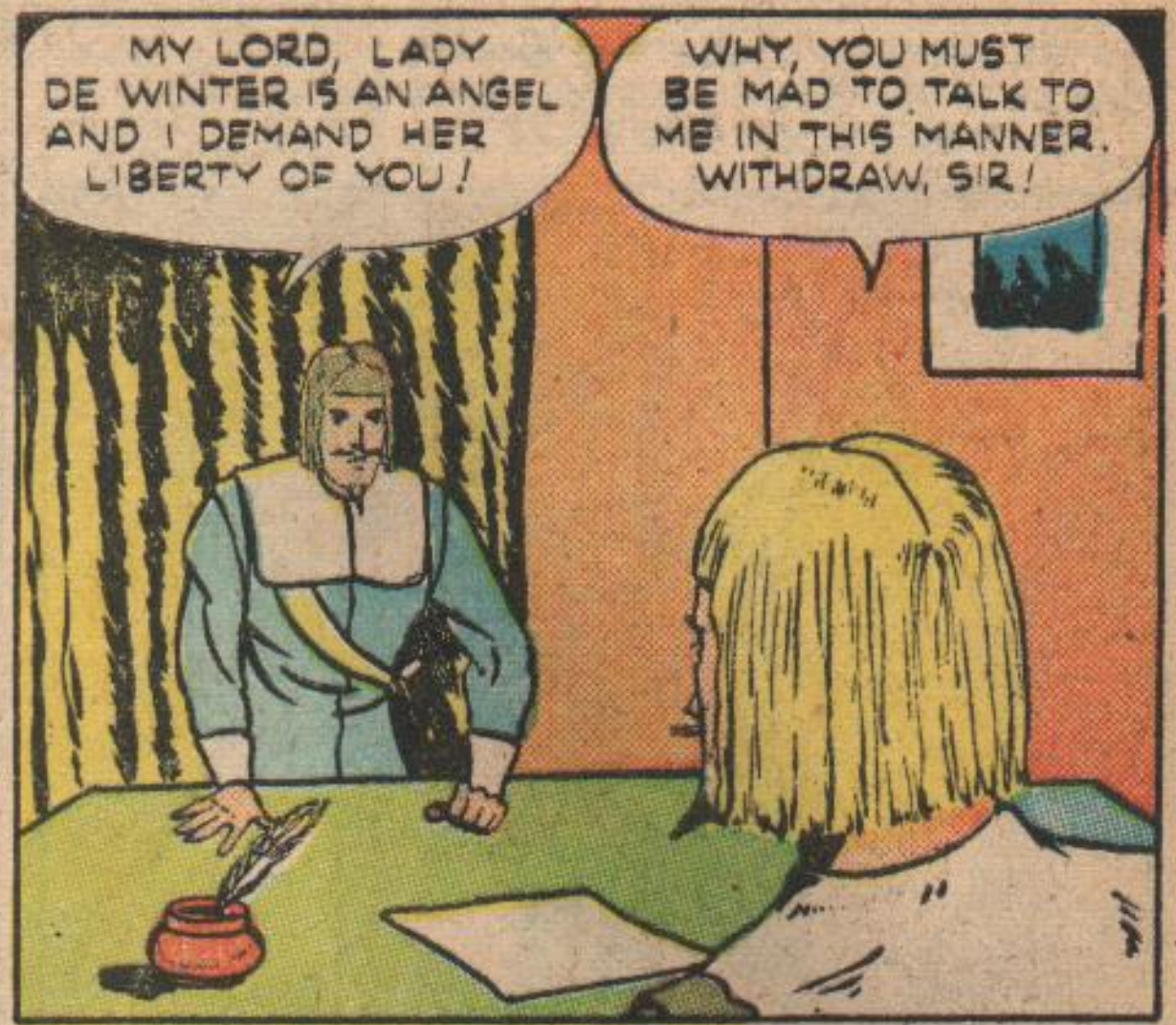
**P**ATRICK, THE DUKE'S VALET, ADMITS FELTON TO BUCKINGHAM'S CHAMBER.



WILL YOUR GRACE SIGN THAT ORDER WITHOUT REMORSE?









# CLASSICS Illustrated

**M**EANWHILE, THE DUKE IS CARRIED TO A COUCH BY PATRICK. THE DUKE'S SURGEON ENTERS AND EXAMINES HIM.



**L**ORD DE WINTER APPROACHES FELTON.

MISERABLE WRETCH!  
I SWEAR TO YOU THAT  
YOUR ACCOMPLICE  
IS NOT SAVED!

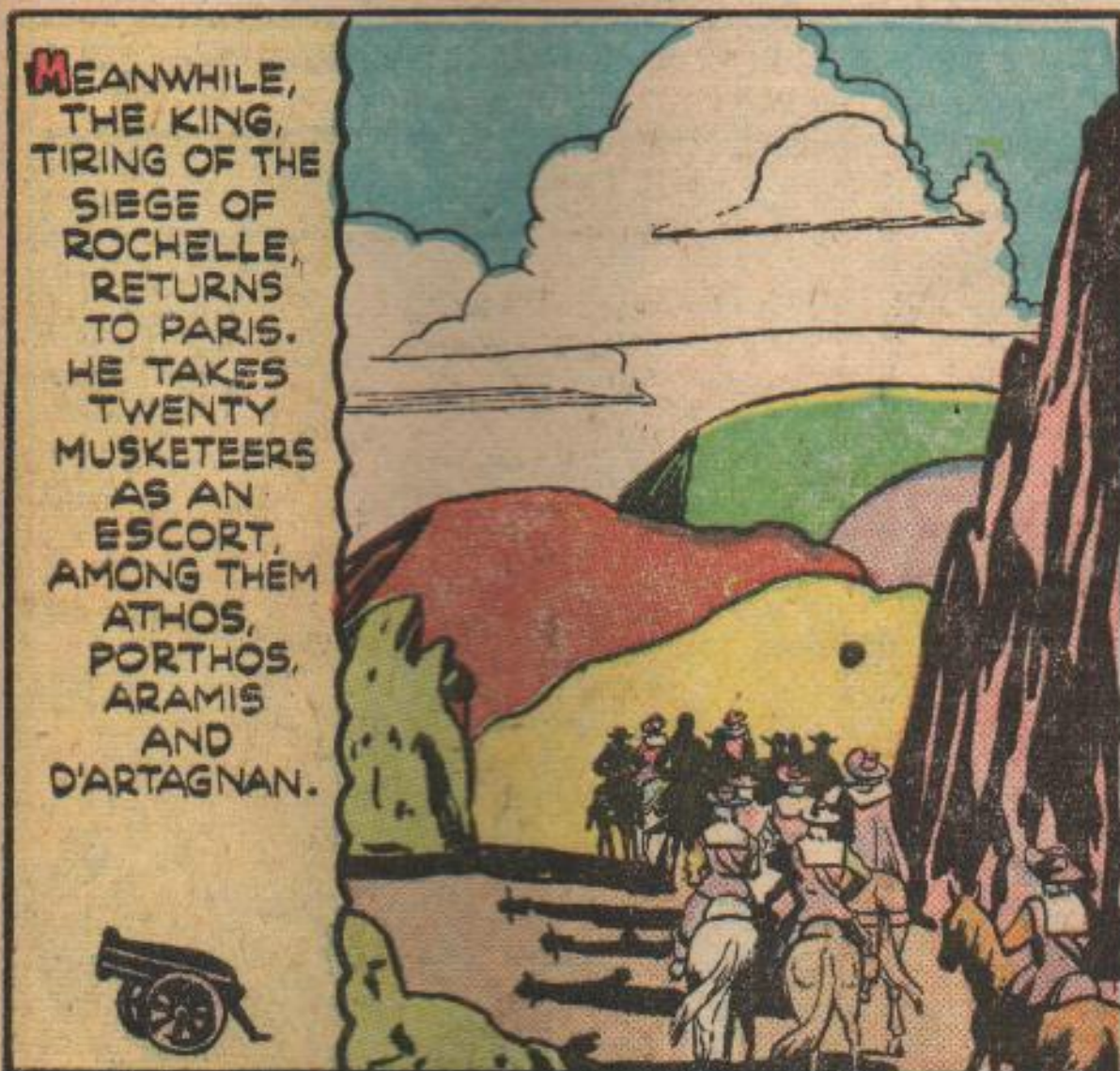
GOD HAS  
SO WILLED IT!



**L**ORD DE WINTER DESCENDS THE STAIRS AND MAKES STRAIGHT FOR THE PORT.



**M**EANWHILE, THE KING, TIRING OF THE SIEGE OF ROCHELLE, RETURNS TO PARIS. HE TAKES TWENTY MUSKETEERS AS AN ESCORT, AMONG THEM ATHOS, PORTHOS, ARAMIS AND D'ARTAGNAN.

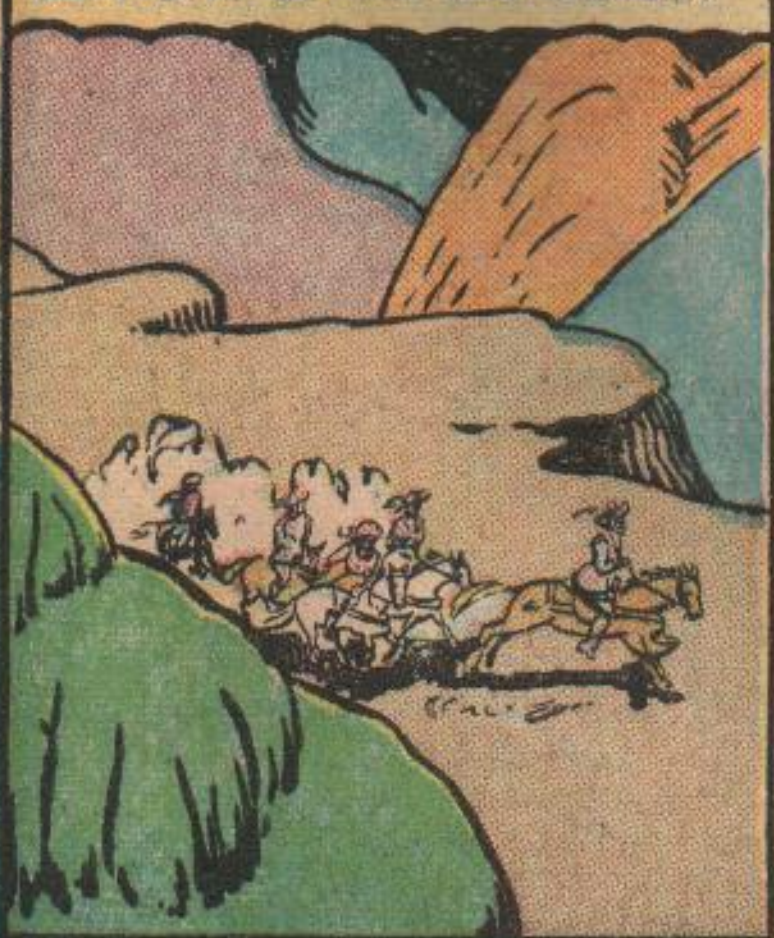


**W**HEN THEY ARRIVE IN PARIS, DE TREVILLE GRANTS LEAVES OF ABSENCE TO THE FOUR FRIENDS.

REPORT FOR DUTY  
IN SIX DAYS:



**T**HE FOUR MUSKETEERS AND THEIR LACKEYS SET OUT AT ONCE FOR BETHUNE AND THE CONVENT OF THE CARMELITES.



**T**HAT EVENING, AS THEY DISMOUNT AT A HOTEL IN ARRAS, A HORSEMAN GALLOPS OUT OF THE POSTING-YARD.

IT IS  
HE!



WHAT  
HE?

THAT CURSED  
MAN, MY EVIL  
GENIUS, WHOM I HAVE  
ALWAYS MET WITH WHEN  
THREATENED BY SOME  
MISFORTUNE!





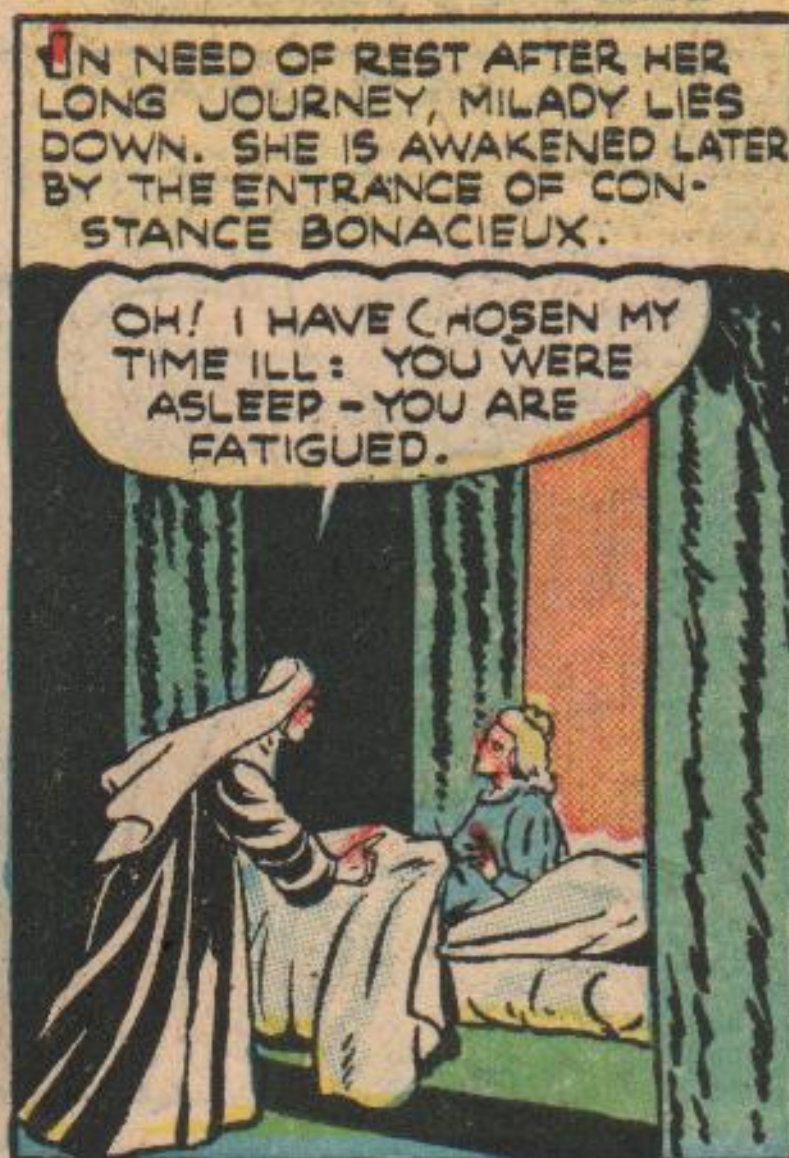




# CLASSICS Illustrated



YOU MUST REST NOW. I'LL SEND HER TO YOU LATER.



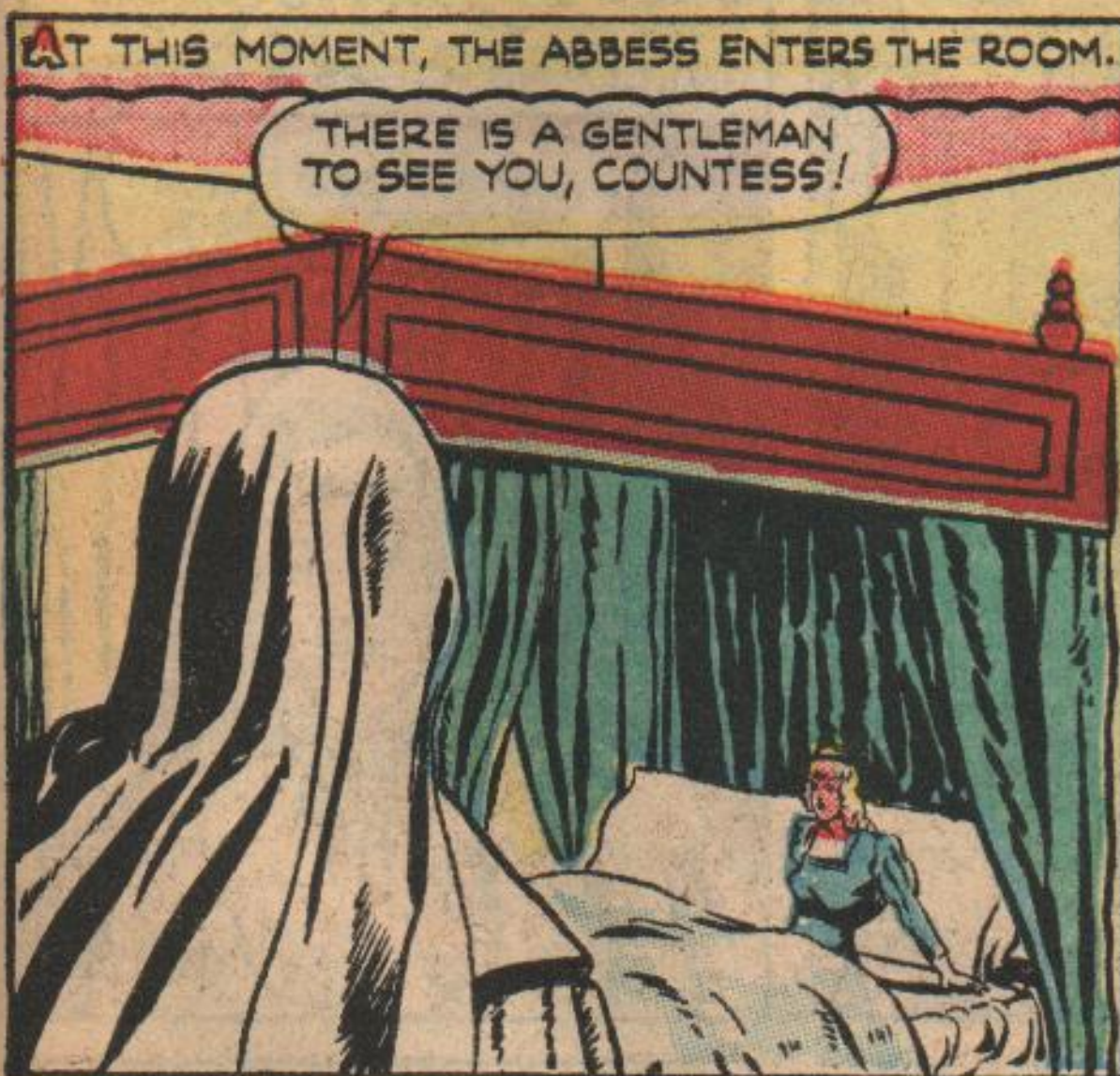
IN NEED OF REST AFTER HER LONG JOURNEY, MILADY LIES DOWN. SHE IS AWAKENED LATER BY THE ENTRANCE OF CONSTANCE BONACIEUX.

OH! I HAVE CHOSEN MY TIME ILL: YOU WERE ASLEEP - YOU ARE FATIGUED.



THOUGHTS OF VENGEANCE STIMULATE MILADY. SHE SITS UP.

DO NOT LEAVE. LET US TALK. I ALSO SUFFER FROM THE CARDINAL'S HATE. EVEN NOW I FLEE FROM HIS AGENTS.



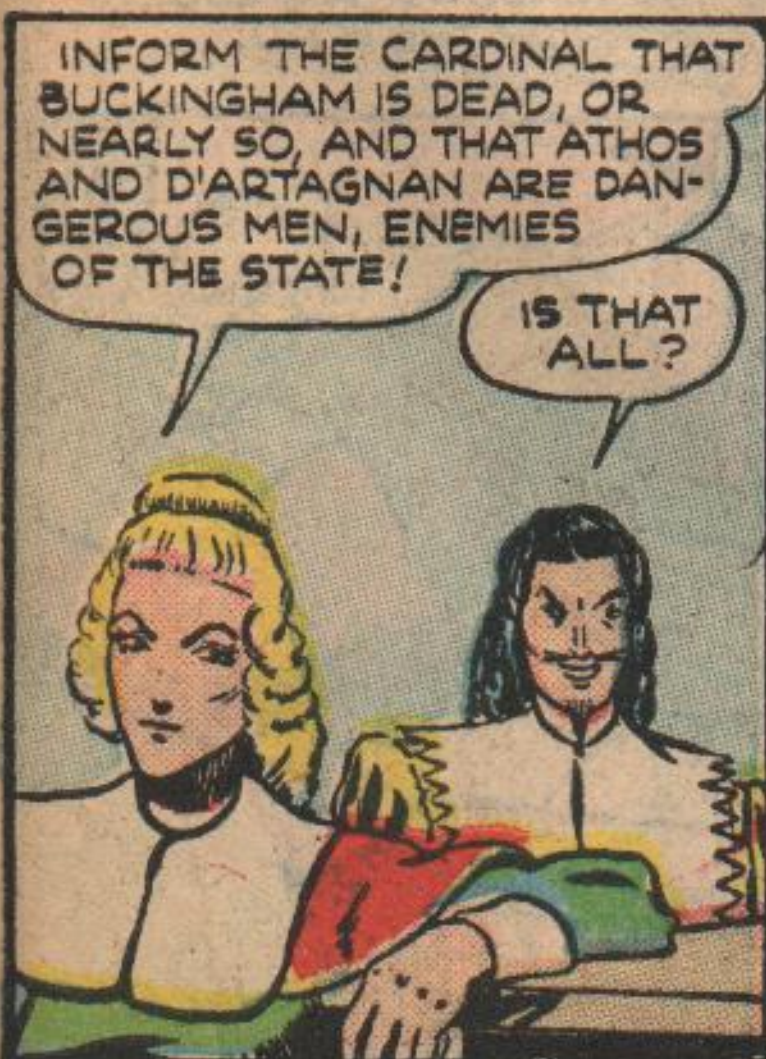
AT THIS MOMENT, THE ABBESS ENTERS THE ROOM.

THERE IS A GENTLEMAN TO SEE YOU, COUNTESS!



MILADY GOES TO AN ANTECHAMBER WHERE ROCHEFORT IS WAITING.

WHAT ARE YOUR INSTRUCTIONS?



INFORM THE CARDINAL THAT BUCKINGHAM IS DEAD, OR NEARLY SO, AND THAT ATHOS AND D'ARTAGNAN ARE DANGEROUS MEN, ENEMIES OF THE STATE!

IS THAT ALL?



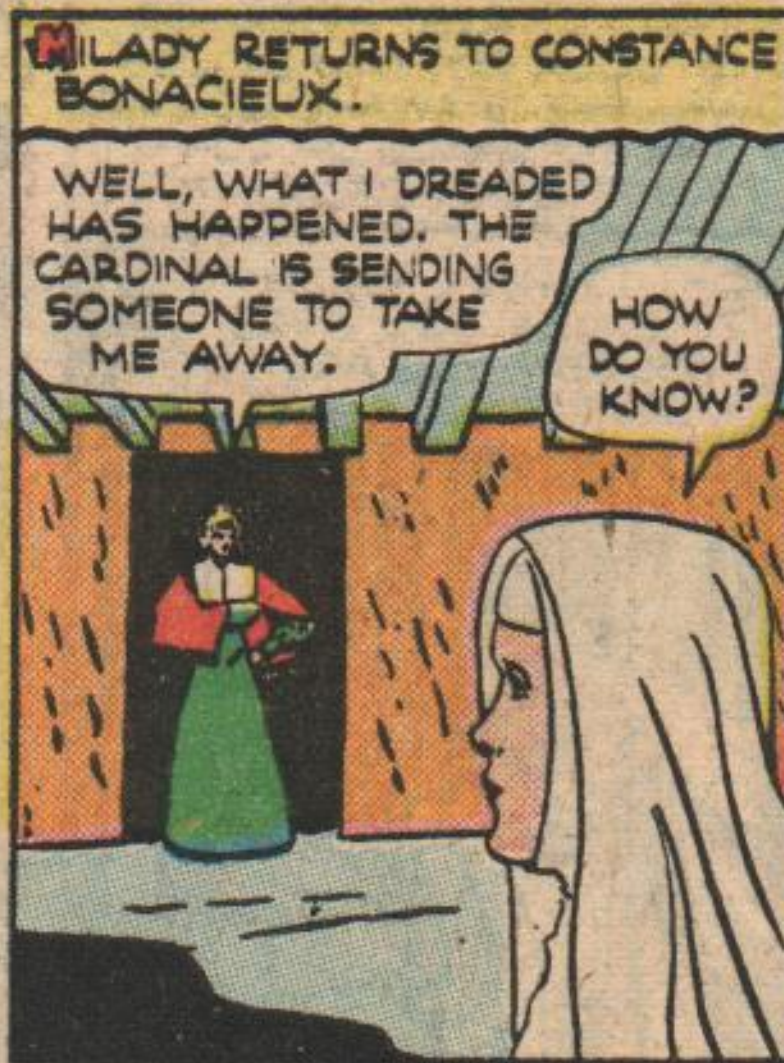
PLACE YOUR CARRIAGE AND LACKEY AT MY DISPOSAL. I WILL MEET YOU LATER AT ARMENTIERES!

WRITE THAT NAME ON A PIECE OF PAPER LEST I FORGET.



MILADY COMPLIES WITH THE REQUEST. ROCHEFORT PUTS THE PAPER IN HIS HAT (THE SAME PAPER WHICH D'ARTAGNAN GOT FROM THE STABLE-BOY AT ARRAS)



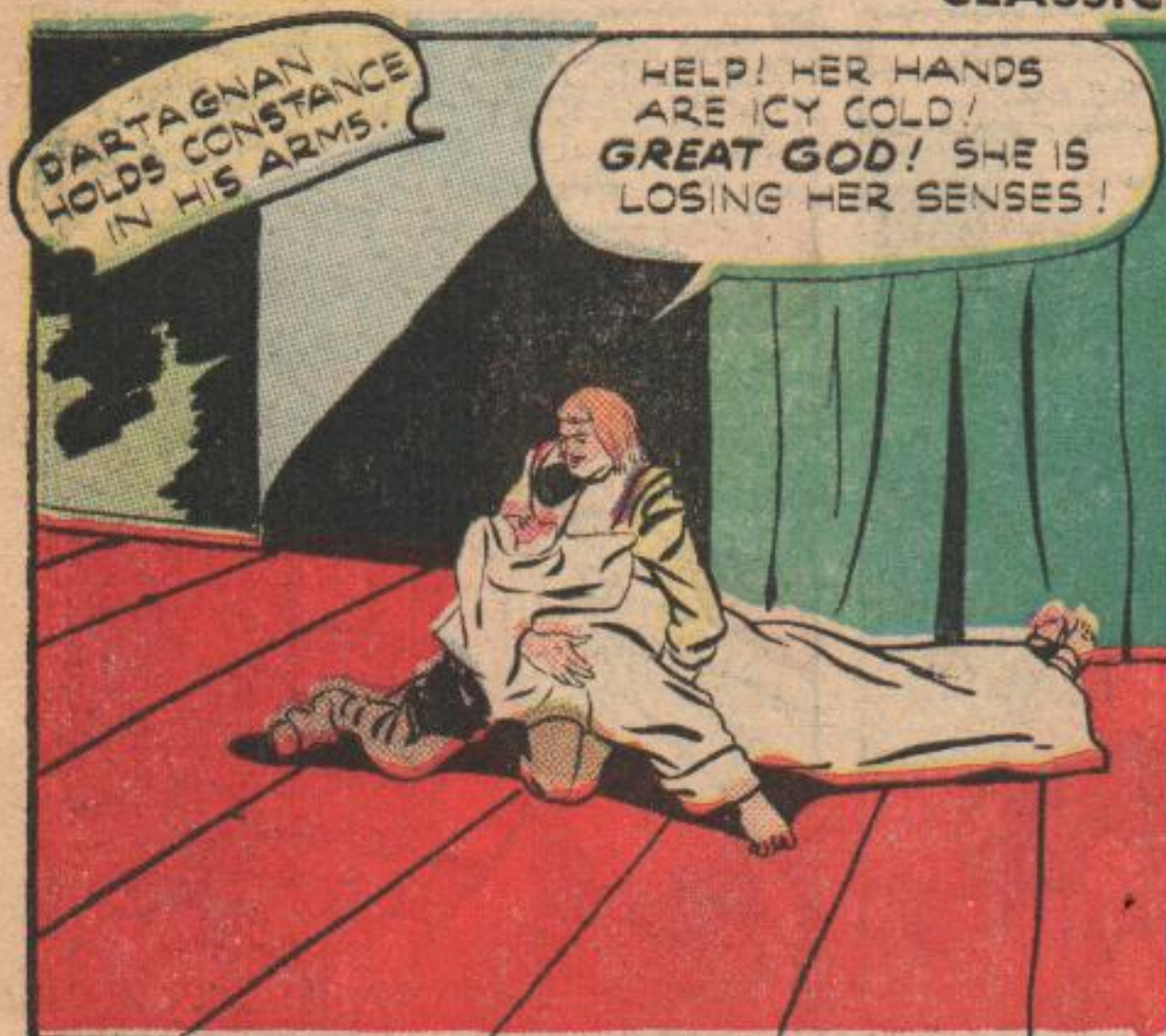








# CLASSICS Illustrated





# CLASSICS Illustrated

ATHOS SENDS ARAMIS FOR THE SUPERIOR, AND WHEN SHE APPEARS ADDRESSES HER.

MADAME, WE ABANDON TO YOUR PIOUS CARE THE BODY OF THAT UNFORTUNATE WOMAN. TREAT HER AS ONE OF YOUR SISTERS. WE WILL RETURN SOME DAY TO PRAY OVER HER GRAVE.



ALL FIVE, FOLLOWED BY THEIR LACKEYS, TAKE THEIR WAY TO THE TOWN OF BETHUNE AND STOP AT AN INN.

SHALL WE NOT FOLLOW THAT WOMAN? SHE WILL ESCAPE US!

I WILL BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR HER.



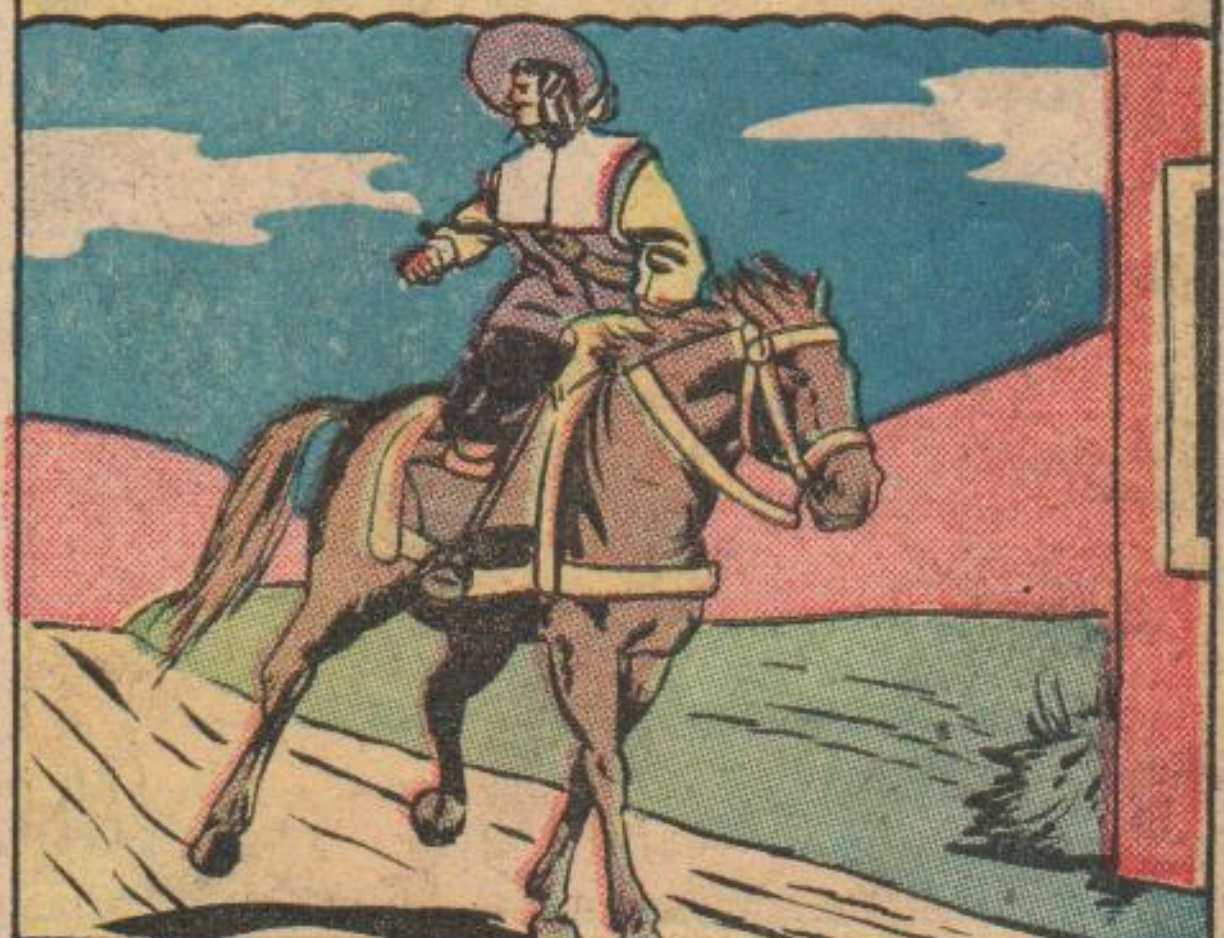
NOW, GENTLEMEN, LET EACH ONE RETIRE TO HIS OWN APARTMENT. I TAKE CHARGE OF EVERYTHING. ONLY, DARTAGNAN, GIVE ME THE PIECE OF PAPER WHICH FELL FROM THAT MAN'S HAT AT ARRAS.

ATHOS CALLS THE LACKEYS AND ISSUES INSTRUCTIONS.

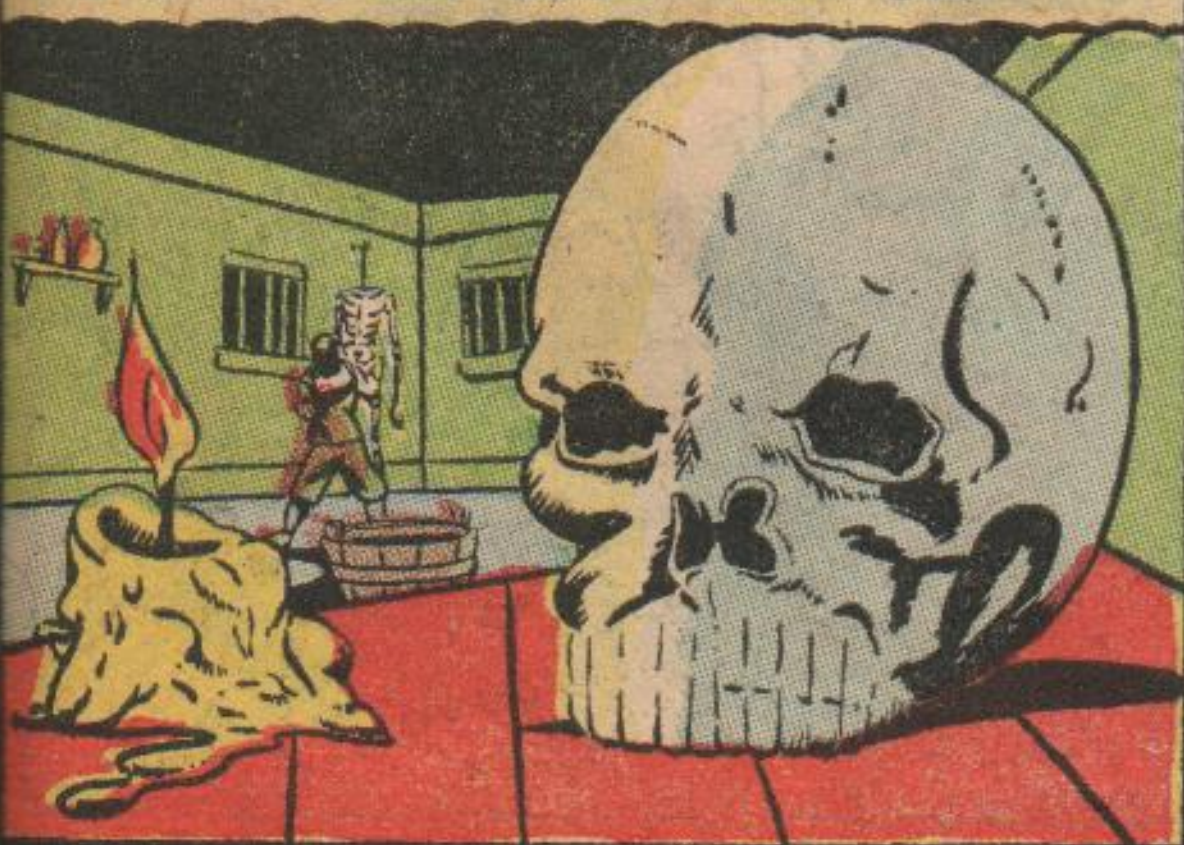
GO TO ARMENTIERES; FIND MILADY; THREE STAY ON GUARD; ONE OF YOU RETURN TO THE ROAD TO DIRECT US.



ATHOS THEN MOUNTS HIS HORSE AND GALLOPS OFF. AFTER A LONG RIDE, HE COMES TO A SOLITARY, GHOSTLIKE HOUSE — DARK AND SILENT AS THE TOMB. HE DISMOUNTS AND ENTERS.



THE MAN WHOM ATHOS HAD COME SO FAR TO SEEK IS ENGAGED IN FASTENING TOGETHER WITH AN IRON WIRE, THE BONES OF A SKELETON. THE SKULL RESTS ON THE TABLE.



THE TWO CONVERSE IN LOW-TONES. ATHOS WRITES HIS NAME ON A PAPER AND SHOWS IT TO THE STRANGER.

I AM READY TO OBEY!

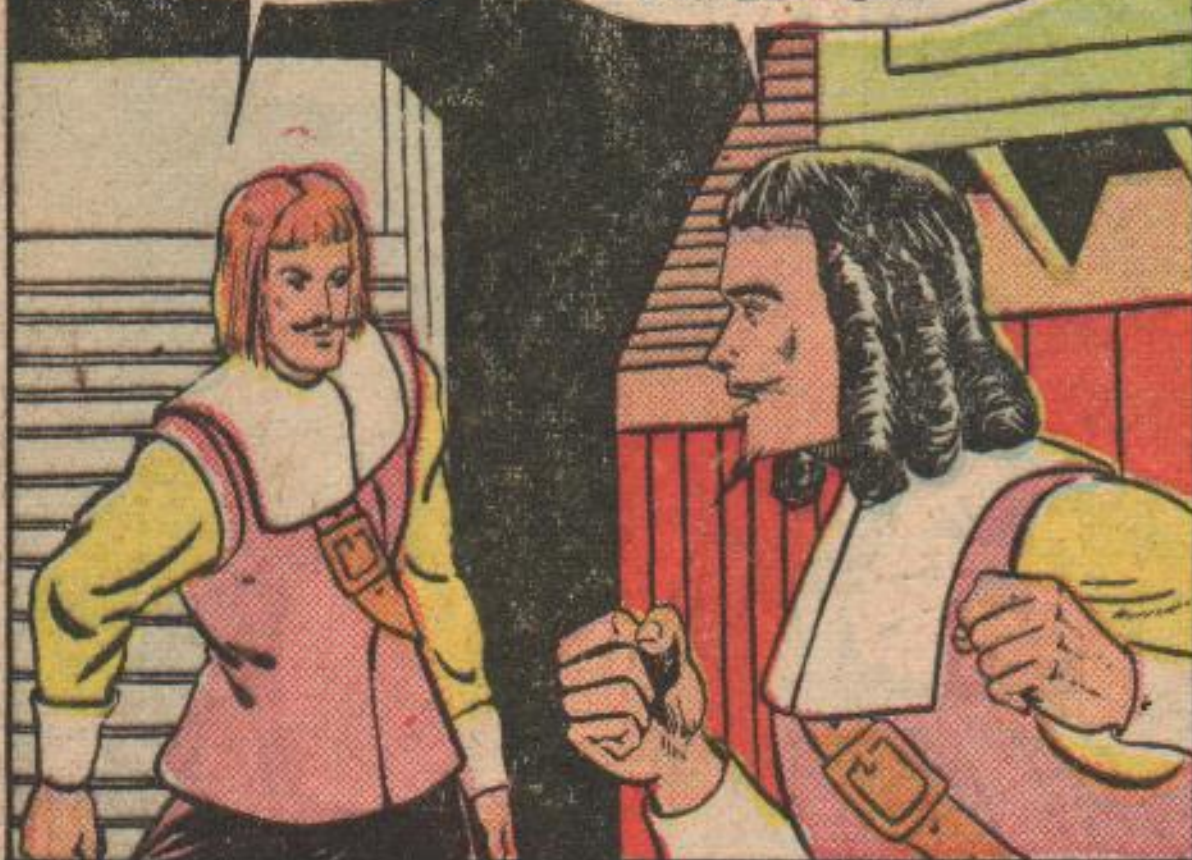




ATHOS LEAVES THE STRANGER AND RIDES BACK TO THE INN.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

PREPARE YOUR EQUIPMENT FOR AN EXPEDITION.



EVERYONE EXAMINES HIS ARMS AND PUTS THEM IN ORDER. THE HORSES ARE SADDLED AND MOUNTED.

PATIENCE! ONE OF OUR PARTY IS STILL WANTING!

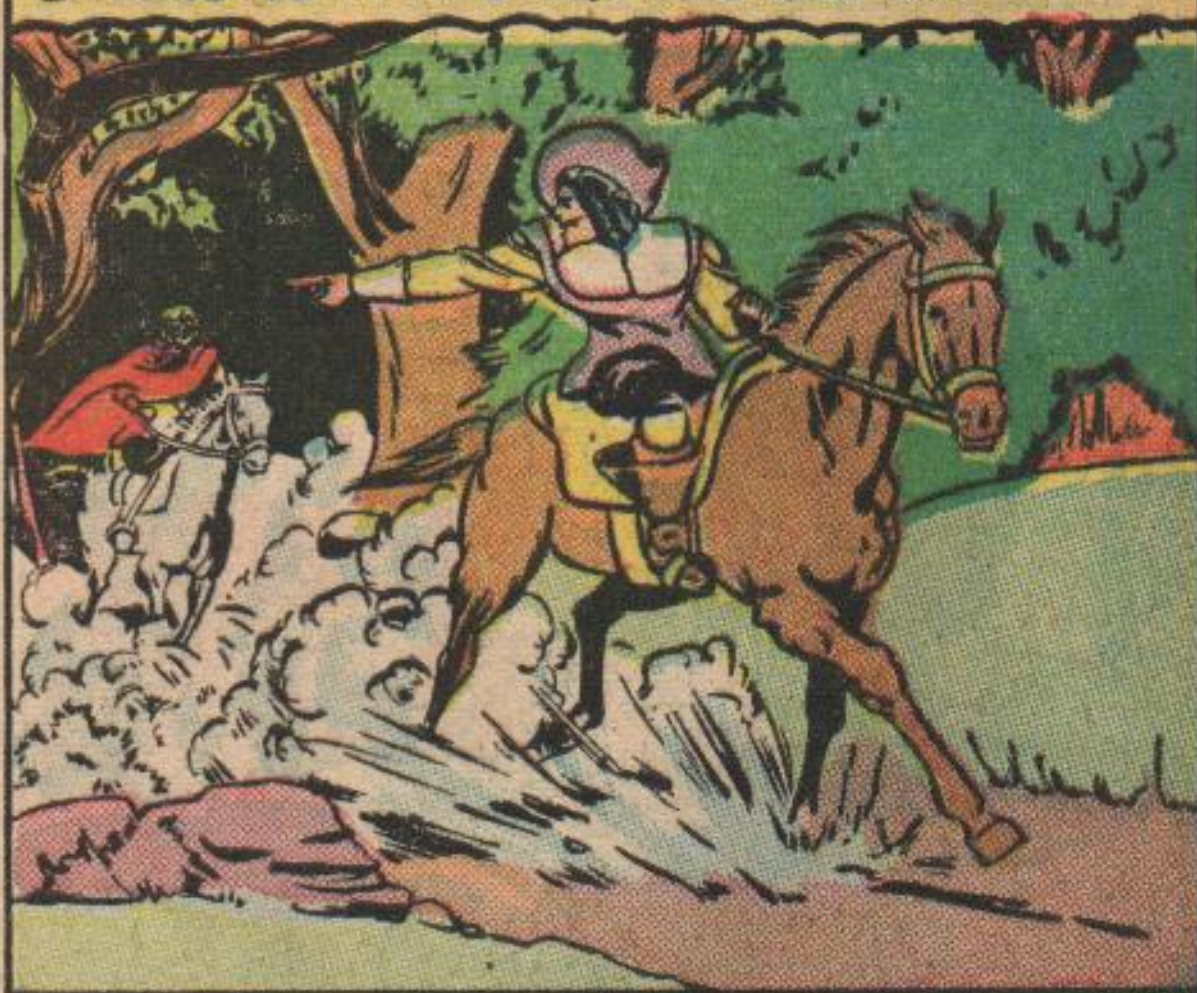


ATHOS LEAPS LIGHTLY INTO THE SADDLE OF HIS HORSE AND GALLOPS OFF.

WAIT FOR ME — I WILL SOON BE BACK!



IN A QUARTER OF AN HOUR HE RETURNS, ACCOMPANIED BY A TALL MAN; MASKED AND ENVELOPED IN A LARGE RED CLOAK..



WITHOUT EXPLAINING THE PRESENCE OF THE STRANGER TO THE OTHERS, ATHOS TAKES COMMAND.

GENTLEMEN, FOLLOW ME!



THE GRIM CAVALCADE RIDES OFF INTO THE NIGHT.





**S**UDDENLY, GRIMAUD APPEARS BEFORE THEM AND BECKONS TO ATHOS.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?  
HAS SHE LEFT ARMENTIERES?

YES!



WHERE  
IS SHE?

WITHIN HALF A  
LEAGUE, IN THE  
DIRECTION OF  
RIVER LYS.



THAT IS WELL.  
LEAD US ON!



THE PARTY FOLLOWS GRIMAUD.

**T**HERE IS A FLASH OF LIGHTNING AND BY THE BLUE SPLENDOR OF THE SERPENT OF FIRE THEY DISTINGUISH A LITTLE HOUSE ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER.



**A**THOS DISMOUNTS AND GOES TO THE WINDOW. HE SEES MILADY SEATED BEFORE THE DYING EMBERS OF A FIRE.

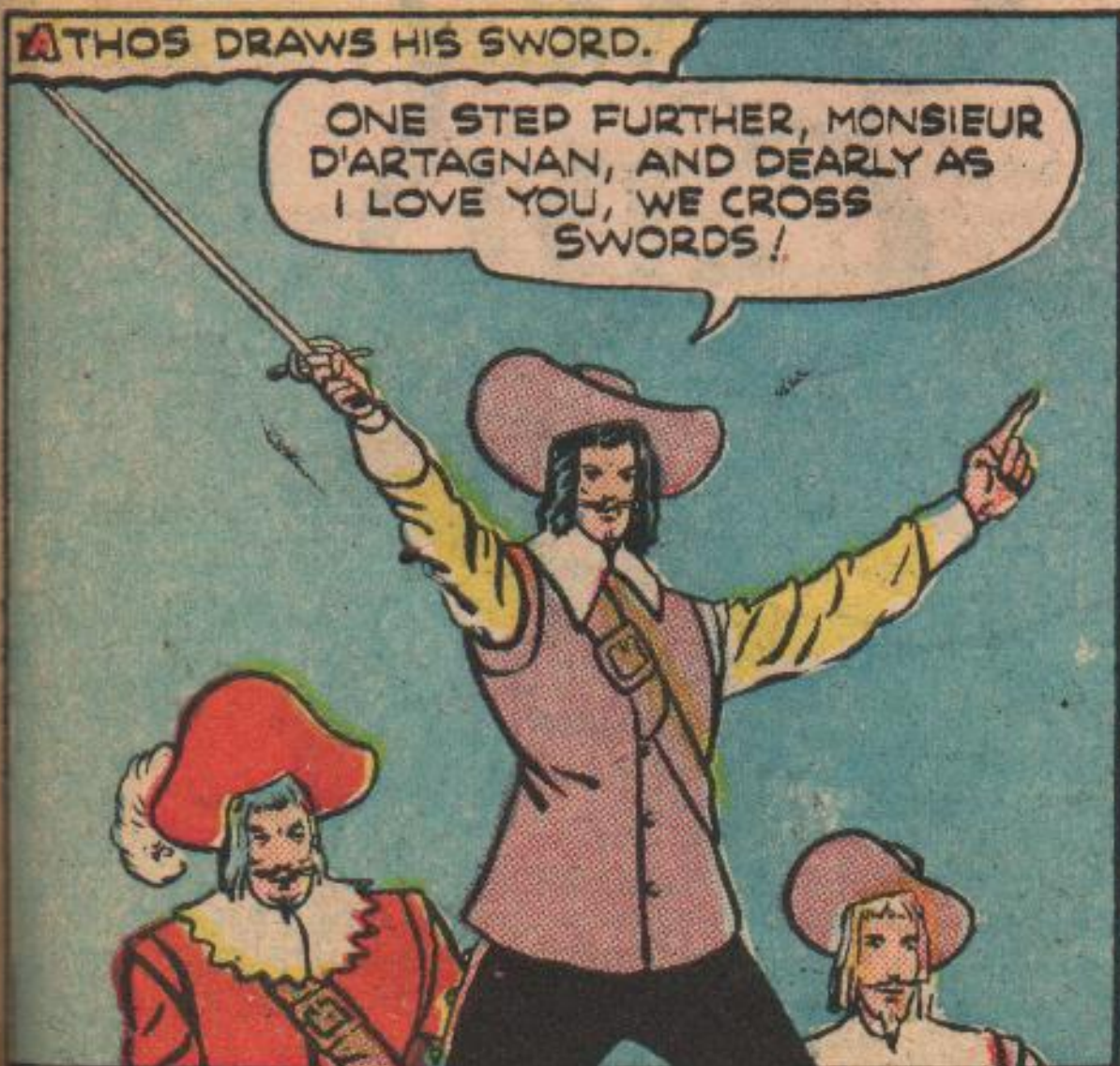
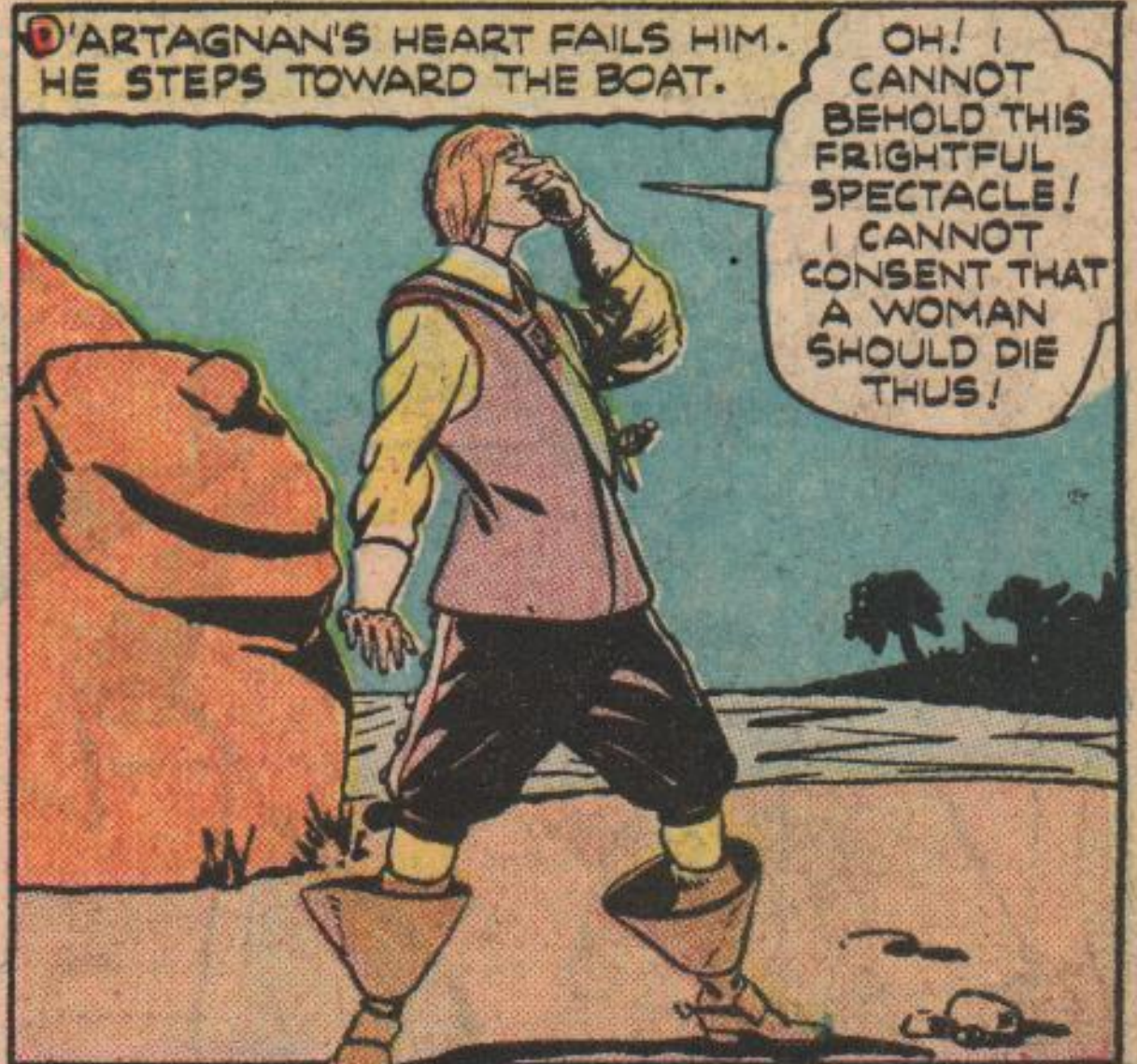
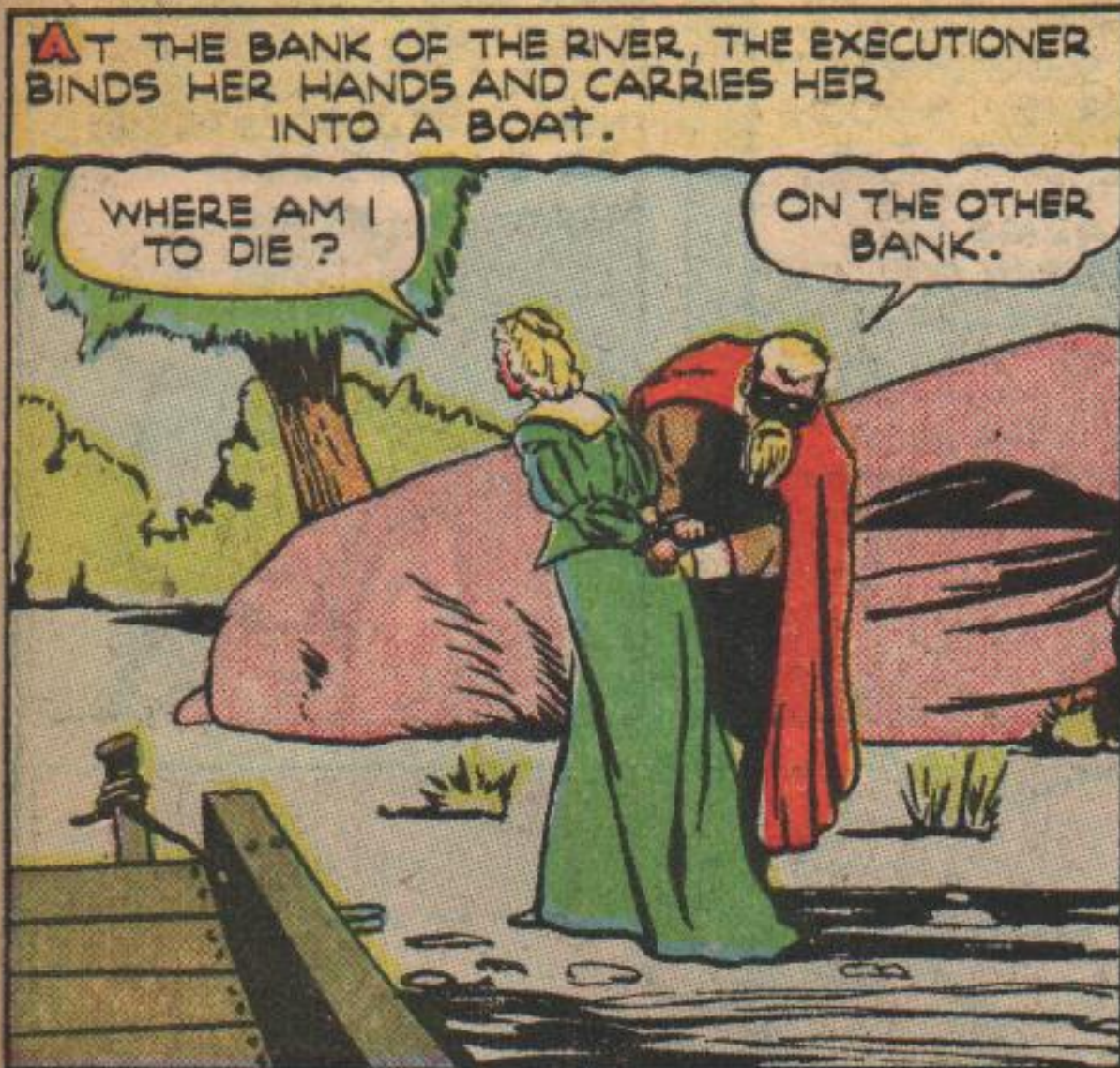
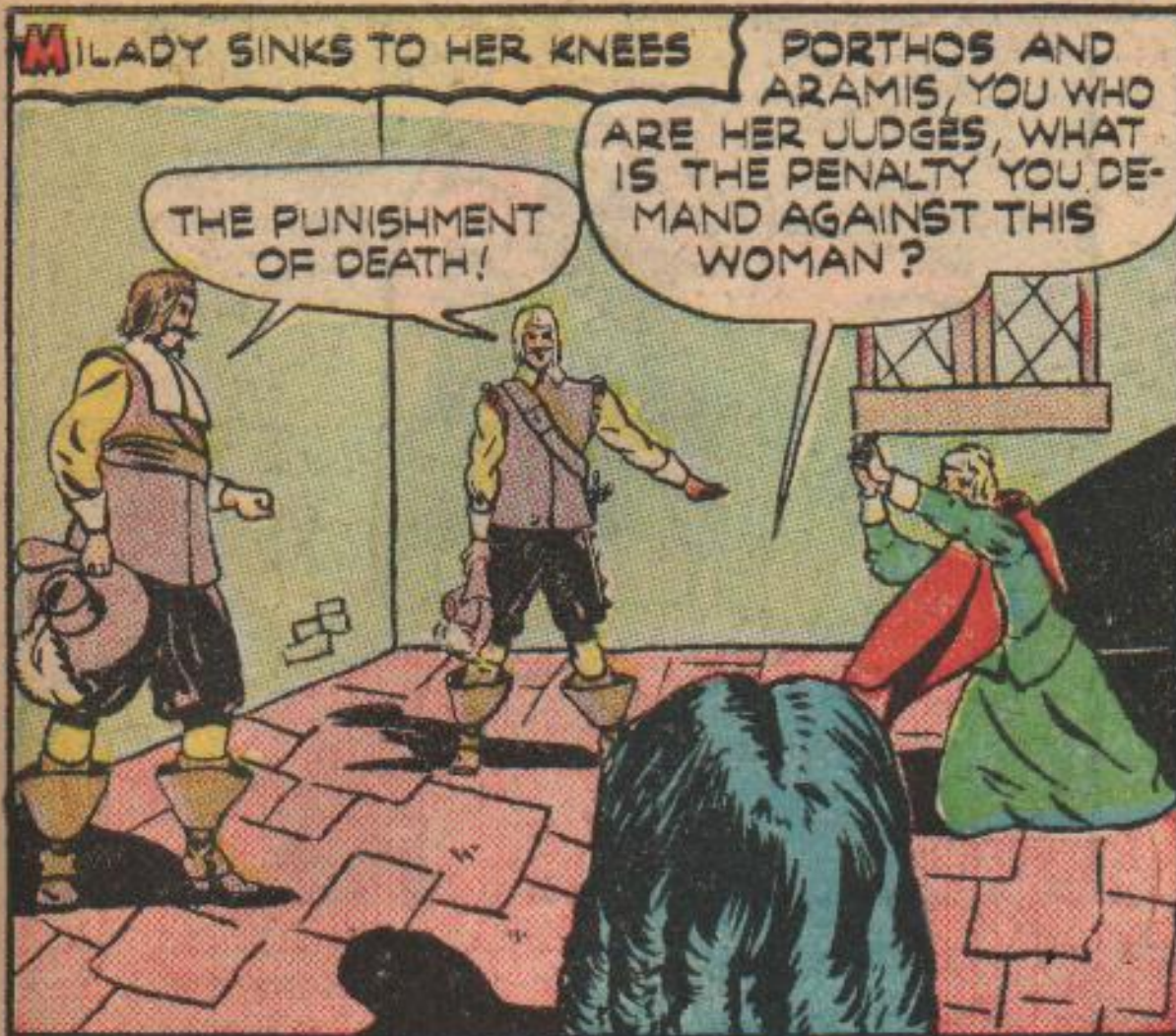


**A** HORSE NEIGHS AND MILADY RAISES HER HEAD. ATHOS SMASHES THE WINDOW AND LIKE THE SPECTER OF VENGEANCE, SPRINGS INTO THE ROOM. THE OTHERS BURST THROUGH THE DOOR.



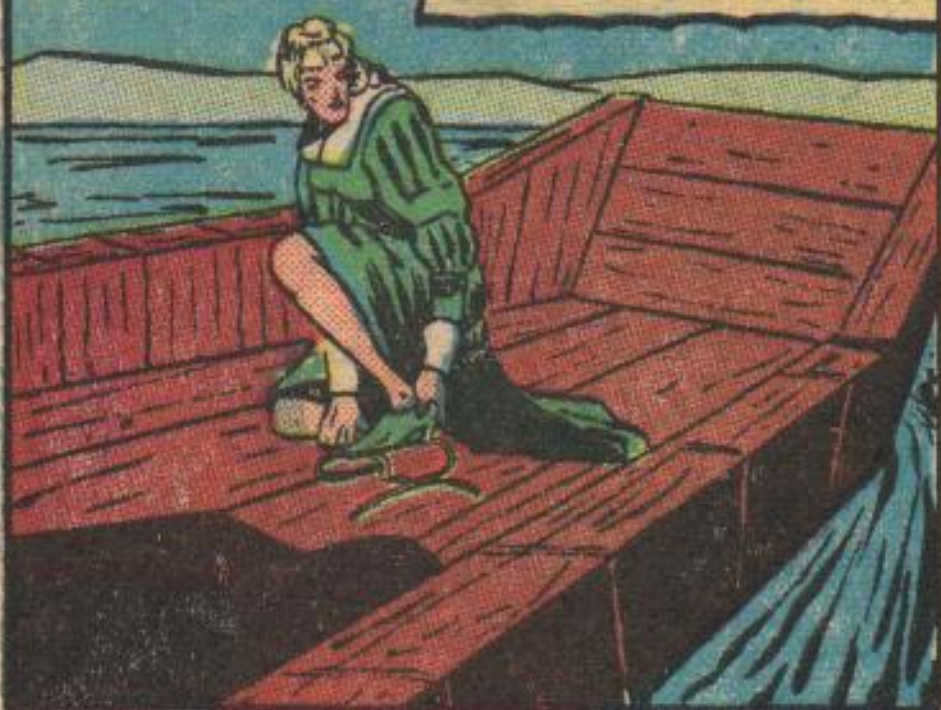








THE BOAT GLIDES TO THE OTHER BANK. MILADY, DURING HER PASSAGE, HAS CONTRIVED TO UNTIE THE CORD THAT BOUND HER FEET.

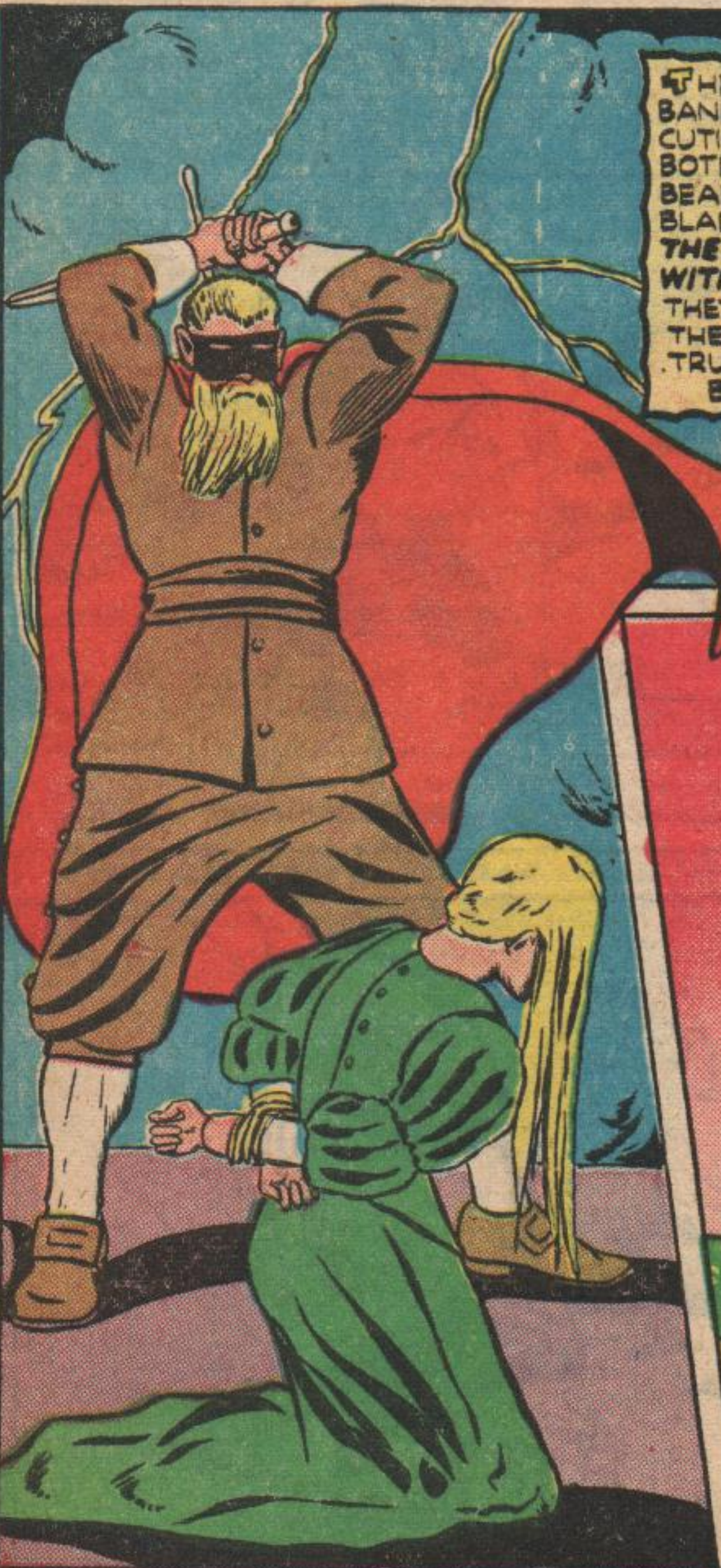


WHEN THE BOAT REACHES THE BANK, MILADY JUMPS LIGHTLY ON SHORE AND TAKES TO FLIGHT. BUT THE SOIL IS MOIST: SHE SLIPS AND FALLS ON HER KNEES.



WHEN, FROM THE OTHER BANK, THEY SEE THE EXECUTIONER SLOWLY RAISE BOTH HIS ARMS. A MOON-BEAM FALLS UPON THE BLADE OF THE LARGE SWORD. **THE TWO ARMS FALL WITH A SUDDEN FORCE:** THEY HEAR THE CRY OF THE VICTIM, THEN A TRUNCATED MASS SINKS BENEATH THE BLOW.

MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON HER SOUL. THOUGH SHE WAS A DEMON ON EARTH AND BLASTED MY FUTURE, I FORGIVE HER. NOW THAT JUSTICE HAS BEEN DONE, LET US BE OFF!



# The End

HOMEWARD BOUND TO PARIS, WHERE THEY ARE FATED TO BE FORGIVEN BY THE CARDINAL BECAUSE OF THEIR VALOR, D'ARTAGNAN AWARDED WITH A CAPTAINCY; SPIRITUAL ARAMIS TO ENTER A MONESTARY; BIG BLUFF PORTHOS TO TAKE A BRIDE AND ATHOS TO CONTINUE HIS CHARMING, HAPPY-GO-LUCKY LIFE.



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